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PROCESSING PROWESS

**India to get faster supercomputers**

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**Growth may exceed 7% in FY23, says Das**

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RBI'S DECISION

***Destabilising confidence in the rupee***

*Withdrawing ₹2,000 notes is poor judgment*

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SENSATIONAL SPELL

**Madhwal's five for five puts MI in Qualifier 2**

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# One killed, houses torched in Manipur

**The Hindu Bureau**
IMPHAL/GUWAHATI

Suspected extremists gunned down a man in Manipur, triggering fresh violence in the State and prompting the authorities to withdraw the relaxation of curfew in vulnerable areas on Wednesday.

Violence broke out late on Tuesday night in the Meitei-dominated Bishnupur district bordering the hill district of Churachandpur, which is the domain of the Kuki-Zomi tribal group.

The house of Manipur PWD Minister Konthoujam Govindas in Bishnupur was vandalised on Wednesday evening by a mob, comprising mostly women, claiming that the government was not doing enough to protect locals from tribal extremists. Mr. Govindas, a BJP leader, and his family members, were away when about 100 people barged into their house in the Ningthoukhong Bazaar area.

Abandoned houses on fire in Imphal on Monday. ANI

Officials said a group of "miscreants" on Tuesday torched some abandoned houses at Tronglaobi village, which is close to the boundary between the two districts and near a relief camp set up for those displaced during the recent violence.

Those affected retaliated by burning down four abandoned houses in the adjoining Gelmol village, and were then fired upon by suspected militants.

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# 19 Opposition parties to boycott Parliament inauguration by PM

Sidelining the President not only a grave insult but also a direct assault on democracy, they say; Biju Janata Dal, YSR Congress to attend May 28 event

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Declaring their intention to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament, 19 Opposition parties, including the Congress, issued a joint statement on Wednesday saying there was no value in a new building when the "soul of democracy has been sucked out from Parliament".

Their primary objection is against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to inaugurate the building himself, "completely sidelining President Droupadi Murmu", which the Opposition said was not only "a grave insult but also a direct assault on our democracy, which demands a commensurate response".

**Caught in a storm:** A view of the new Parliament building, right, coming up next to the existing Parliament in New Delhi. R.V. MOORTHY

The signatories are the Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Aam Aadmi Party, Trinamool Congress, Janata Dal(U), Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena (UBT), CPI(M), CPI, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Indian Union Muslim League, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, National Conference, Kerala Congress (Mani), Revolutionary Socialist Party, Rashtriya Lok Dal, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, and the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi.

The Biju Janata Dal and the YSR Congress Party said they would attend the event on Sunday.

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## NEARBY

### KSTDC airport taxi services to go online soon

BENGALURU
In a month or two, people travelling to or from the airport via KSTDC taxis can finally book their rides online, much like any other cab aggregator platform. » Page 2

### BBMP readies audit report of 13 underpasses

BENGALURU
The BBMP has completed the audit of 13 underpasses and flagged three U-shaped underpasses as vulnerable to flooding.
There are 53 underpasses in the city.

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# U.T. Khader elected Assembly Speaker

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Five-time Congress MLA and former Minister U.T. Khader was unanimously elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

Mr. Khader is the 23rd Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the first Muslim to hold the post in Karnataka.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah proposed the name of Mr. Khader and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar seconded it.

The Congress Legislature Party had unanimously chosen Mr. Khader for the post.

Mr. Khader served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition when the Bharatiya Janata Party was in power (2019-23).

U.T. Khader

He served as the Health, and the Food and Civil Supplies Minister in the Siddaramaiah-led government during 2013-18.

RELATED REPORT » PAGE 4

# Won't let anyone mar India-Australia ties: PM

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

India and Australia will not tolerate any elements that may harbour plans to harm strong bilateral ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a "joint press statement" event, Mr. Modi announced that India will open a new consulate in Brisbane, and said the two sides have "decided to focus" on upgrading the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) to the level of a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement.

"Prime Minister Albanese and I have in the past discussed the issue of attacks on temples in Australia. We discussed the matter today again. We will not accept any elements that harm friendly and warm ties with India by their actions or thoughts. I thank Prime Minister Albanese for the actions that he has taken against such elements. He has assured me that he will take strict actions against such elements in the future also," Mr. Modi said.

He had earlier raised the incidents of vandalism against temples in Australia with Mr. Albanese when the latter visited India in March.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

TIES THAT BIND » EDIT

# Man accused of assault falls to death, family alleges police murdered him

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bommanahalli police are in the dock after a 28-year-old man accused of assault reportedly fell from the third floor of a building to escape from the police.

However, the family of the deceased, Mohammad Hussain, alleged that the police pushed him from the building while taking him into custody and demanded that a case of murder should be registered against the officials.

The incident occurred on Wednesday afternoon when the police, based on a complaint of assault, went to Hussain's house to detain him for questioning. Hussain had allegedly assaulted a girl in the neighbourhood and created nuisance in the area.

According to the police, when they went to take him into custody, Hussain tried to escape and in the melee, jumped from the building and sustained severe injuries.

He was taken to a hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The Bommanahalli police have registered a case of suspicious death, while the family of the deceased has accused the police of murdering him.

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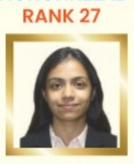
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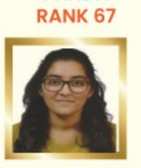
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**Success formula:** The rise of speedsters like Chahar, Deshpande, Mohit, Gony, Pathirana, Tyagi, Pandey and Shardul over the years stands testimony to Chennai Super Kings' work ethic and process. FILE PHOTOS

# Transforming rookie bowlers into star performers

Dhoni's man-management ability, and the sustained support from the Chennai Super Kings coaching staff, has seen many a talent go on to achieve bigger laurels on the international stage

IPL

**Anish Pathiyil**

The 2023 Indian Premier League season has seen the coming-of-age of the young Chennai Super Kings (CSK) bowling department.

Though it was perceived to be the team's weaker suit, the bowlers have managed to pull their weight in the league stage, despite the injury to main pacer Deepak Chahar, by winning eight games en route to the playoffs. The batting performances have undoubtedly been the backbone of the team's success this season, and the bowling has ably complemented them.

Even in Qualifier 1, the attack, expertly marshalled by skipper M.S. Dhoni, managed to restrict the visitors to 157 and trump them by 15 runs. This marked only the fourth instance of Gujarat Titans (GT) failing to run a score down in 18 run-chases since its debut last season. It was also the first time Hardik's unit had been bowled out.

Dhoni's man-management ability, coupled with his constant communication from behind the stumps, is often credited for less-experienced bowlers coming good for the franchise.

The bowling stars for CSK this season have been the ones with minimal or no international experience. Mumbai's Tushar Deshpande, 28, is yet to play for India, and Matheesha Pathirana, 20, has a sole T20I appearance for Sri Lanka.

Akash Singh, the left-arm pacer who represents Nagaland, was brought in to replace the injured Mukesh Chowdhury, and he delivered in the PowerPlay, picking up six wickets in the absence of Chahar.

Dhoni has been using post-match appearances as a platform to motivate his players. At the end of CSK's final league game against Delhi Capitals, he lauded the performances of his bowlers, reserving special praise for Deshpande and Pathirana.

"I think the bowlers have taken the responsibility; Pathirana is quite a natural at bowling at the death, but Deshpande has really developed there."

Dhoni has also voiced his criticism of his bowlers, a case in point being his calling out Deshpande for his three no-balls against Lucknow Super Giants in a hard-fought last-over win at home.

The CSK skipper has also acknowledged the role played by former player and current bowling coach Dwayne Bravo.

### Praise for Bravo

"Bravo is one of the specialists. Under him, the bowlers will gain confidence. It's a team game. The coach, the bowling coach, and the senior players guide them," said Dhoni after the match against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

This season hasn't been the first instance of domestic talent upping its game under the talismanic skipper. Right from the emergence of players like Manpreet Gony, who played two ODIs for India, and Sudeep Tyagi, who played four ODIs and one T20I, the CSK stable has continually produced bowlers who perform well under pressure.

The rise of bowling talent isn't restricted to just medium-pacers. The team's success in the 2010 and 2011 editions was on the back of performances by two spinners, Shadab Jakati and R. Ashwin.

In the less successful years for the franchise, between 2012 and 2015, the likes of Mohit Sharma, who went on to represent India at the 2015 ODI World Cup, and Ishwar Pandey, who played for India-A, contributed to the team making the playoffs each season.

Even after a two-year hiatus, Chahar and Shardul Thakur, who had made their name playing for Rising Pune Supergiant, performed well for the Chennai-based team, finding a place for themselves in the Indian limited overs teams. Shardul even made the Test team on the back of his performances.

An important reason for the success of these domestic talents is the backing the CSK coaching staff provides. Ever since the team's inception, players have been given a long rope and not dropped after a couple of lacklustre performances.

The management has been lauded for its involvement in the monitoring and nurturing of these players even after the conclusion of the tournament. The continuity in coaching staff over the last 16 years has also ensured such consistency.

CSK supporters will hope that even after their 'Thala' hangs up his boots, the management and leadership group get the best out of the domestic talent at their disposal and add to their already impressive playoff record, if not their well-stocked trophy cabinet.

# Karthi's uncanny ability to swoop in on an opportunity sets him apart

**K. Keerthivasan**

Selvam Karthi is the new young face making waves in the international hockey arena, employing his shooting skills to the maximum. And in the process, he is providing great joy to Indian fans.

The 21-year-old striker from Ariyalur, a small district in Tamil Nadu, showed nerves of steel in the FIH Pro League in Rourkela in March.

Pitted against Olympic giants and three-time World champions like Australia and Germany, Karthi displayed his wares without a hint of pressure, tallying five goals and becoming India's top-scorer in the league.

### Peach of a goal

His peach of a goal against Australia is still being talked about. After receiving a pass from midfielder Vishnukant Singh from outside the circle, Karthi skilfully dodged past a defender and from the top of the circle, unleashed a blinder that hit the right top of the roof, giving no room for Australian goalkeeper John Durst.

"Oh oh hoo hoo," screamed the commentator after that goal. "Selvam Karthi, that was too good, that was exceptional. His goal scoring in international hockey has been something else."

Yes. Karthi's goal-scoring ability has been the talk of the Pro League. His shooting prowess and the ability to sense an opportunity has come in for praise by one and all. In fact, Karthi reportedly was appreciated by none other than Durst.

He scored two goals against World champion Germany, one over Australia and a brace against New Zealand. Each strike showed his brilliance as a forward. Be it a deflection from either wing, or scoring from a difficult angle from close range, or hits from the top of the circle, Karthi has proved he has the potential to be a permanent fixture as a forward in near future.

It was former India captain Sardar Singh who selected Karthi from the probables in the National junior camp in Bengaluru for his first senior international tournament – the Asia Cup in Jakarta. "Sardar sir saw me in the camp. He said, 'I named you because of speed, shooting and good running. Work harder,'" said Karthi.

And the youngster didn't disappoint. He produced a drag flick off a penalty corner against arch-rival Pakistan to score his first goal, and gave a good account of himself overall. India finished with a bronze medal.

**On the prowl:** Karthi was picked for his maiden senior international assignment by former India skipper Sardar Singh who told him that he was chosen for his speed, shooting and running. And the 21-year-old striker has repaid the faith. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

But it was in the Pro League that Karthi blossomed into a player of repute.

Now, with the second half of the tournament set to begin on May 26 where India will play eight matches – four each in London and Netherlands – against Belgium, Great Britain, Argentina and Netherlands, Karthi is eager to perform even better.

India meets Belgium in the first game.

"We are working hard on various combinations with new coach Craig Fulton. The team is eager to do well," said Karthi.

After the Pro League, India has the Asian Champions Trophy in August, followed by Asian Games in September. Karthi is hoping to represent the country at the Asiad, which will be a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"It will not be easy [to be part of the Indian team for the Asian Games]," felt former India skipper and coach V. Baskaran.

According to him, there are around half-a-dozen players fighting for the forward's position and most of them are experienced. To be in the reckoning, Karthi has to present a stronger case.

"There is Lalit (Upadhyay), Akashdeep (Singh), Mandeep (Singh), Dilpreet Singh and Simranjeet Singh who all are more experienced than Karthi. He needs more time to play with seniors and communicate with them.

"His best quality is his scoring power which is very important for strikers. Add to that his elimination skills, he is a wonderful striker, no doubt. But he has to improve his off-the-ball running and re-tackling skills," Baskaran said.

He reiterated Karthi needs to be given as many opportunities as possible in the Pro League to ascertain whether he will fit into Fulton's scheme of things.

"Now there is a need for all-round players, those who can play in the midfield and in front. Karthi plays more in the striking area. No doubt, he is a very good talent and needs to be persisted with," added the Olympian.

### Qualities

For a player born in a non-descript place and be part of the Indian senior team is something rare. Karti's early coaches, who have been part of his journey, revealed their ward's qualities.

R. Siva, who guided him at the SDAT Sports Hostel in Tiruchi when he was around 17, said: "He came in as a half-back and after watching his strength and movement, I made him a forward. He started to score regularly. He has very good speed in the 30m area and his focus is intense. Also, he will implement the coach's instructions to the 'T'.

"He is not scared of the stature of the opponent. In fact, like the way he scored against Australia, he got a similar goal in one of the State-level tournaments. The best part about him is his relaxed nature. But he has to improve his endurance."

While talking about Karthi's skills, Siva recalled a match at the Bharathi Sports & Games in Tirunelveli. "He received the ball in the 23m area, tricked two defenders before getting a wonderful goal. That is still fresh in my memory," added Siva.

N. Muthukumar is another coach who nurtured Karthi when he jointed Kovilpatti's Sports Hostel of Excellence for his 12th Standard. Now a manager of the same hostel, Muthu spoke about Karthi's dominating display at the National junior championships in Aurangabad.

"He scored around eight goals and we beat tough teams like Punjab and Services. He is a great talent, no doubt," said Muthu.

At the same time, he realises things will not remain the same as there will be ups and downs in a player's career.

"His performance may dip, family issues might bog him down and his fitness may drop. He has to overcome them. I think he will do that and continue to play for India and represent the country in two Olympics," added Muthu.

Karthi is focused on his game and is humble. He has earned the trust and respect of the team management. However, his job is only half done.

KSTDC says there has been a consistent increase in the number of customers who have taken its taxis in recent years.
FILE PHOTO

# Soon, KSTDC airport taxi services to go online

Although the idea was in the works since 2015, the app will now finally be released

**Jahnavi T.R.**
BENGALURU

In a month or two, people travelling to or from the airport via Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) taxis can finally book their rides online, much like any other cab aggregator platform. Until now, customers were required to call and book a KSTDC airport taxi or hail one after talking to the person concerned at the airport.

Although the idea to bring the service online was in the works since 2015, the app will now finally be released.

Speaking about why the process was delayed, Ravindra. P.C., general manager, KSTDC, said, "There were several reasons. Recently, in December, before the elections, we had floated a tender, and only one participant came forward, and hence we did not open the financial bid. Then we floated a re-tender, and three to four participants applied. After this, the first participant got a stay in the High Court. But when we appraised the court about why we floated a re-tender, it gave us the go ahead for the project."

The financial bid for the re-tender is expected to be finalised in the next 15 to 20 days and the online service is expected to operate at the earliest. The app will provide options to GPS track the trips, know the prices of trips beforehand among other things, said officials at KSTDC.

The easy availability of these taxis has made them a preferred choice of transportation for many who travel to the airport. According to the figures provided by KSTDC, there has been a consistent increase in customers who have taken KSTDC taxis in recent years. In 2020-21, 1,59,049 trips were booked, while the next year (2021-22), 2,75,639 trips were taken. In 2022-23, close to five lakh airport trips were booked by customers.

In the age of many ride-hailing apps, how have KSTDC taxis managed to increase their ridership? Jagadeesha. G., Managing Director, KSTDC, said, "It is the quality provided by us and the people's trust in KSTDC, as it is a government company. We also take strict action against drivers who charge extra or turn off their meters and ensure that customers get good service. Even recently, we removed 28 drivers as disciplinary action. With the online app, it will become easier for customers to track routes as well as prices."

The KSTDC currently has a fleet of 880 cars, out of which, 650 are Air-conditioned (AC) cars, 200 non-AC, and 30 (27 operational) pink cabs (women drivers).

### Number of BIAL trips by KSTDC taxis

| Year | AC taxis | Non-AC taxis | Pink cabs | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020-21 | 1,15,567 | 36,215 | 7,267 | 1,59,049 |
| 2021-22 | 1,98,889 | 63,824 | 12,926 | 2,75,369 |
| 2022-23 | 3,81,378 | 1,02,289 | 15,554 | 4,99,221 |

# Water adalat to be held in various parts of city today

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold water adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m to 11 a.m in various parts of the city to settle issues related to water billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection and other related problems.

**Areas**

According to a BWSSB release, the adalat will be held at (South East)-3, (South East-6), (West-1)-3, (North West-5), (North-2)-3, (South-1)-3, (South West-3), (South West-6), (East-2)-4 sub-divisions.

For any problems regarding the water supply, members of the public may contact 24x7 call centre: helpline number: 1916. Complaints can also be filed through WhatsApp no: 8762228888, the release stated.

**FOREST, ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**
Karnataka Government Secretariat, M.S. Building, Bangalore. Tel.No: 080-22032275/22032290

No: FEE 81 ENG 2023 Date: 24.05.2023

**INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS FOR THE STATE ENVIRONMENT AWRD-2022-23**

Applications/Nominations are invited for the **Karnataka State Environment Awards for the year 2022-23.** The award will be conferred with a cash prize of Rupees One Lakh and citation on individuals and organizations (Public Sectors/NGOs, Companies/Trusts) in recognition of their outstanding contribution made for environment protection and environment management. **Last date for receipt of applications/nominations is 31.05.2023.** Applications can be submitted to The Principal Secretary (Ecology and Environment) Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Room No. 709. 7th Floor, Multi-Storied Building, 4th Stage, Bangalore. Details can be had from Offices of all the **Deputy Commissioners, Chief Executive Officers, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board,** No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 001. **The Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI),** 'Hasiru Bhavana', Doresanipalya Forest Campus, Vinayakanagara Circle, J.P. Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078, **Karnataka Biodiversity Board,** Ground Floor, Vanavikas, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03 and the websites: https://forest.karnataka.gov.in, www.kspcb.gov.in, www.karnataka.gov.in/empri and https://kbbwebportal.karnataka.gov.in **(S.N: Applications received for Environment Award will not be returned back to the applicants). Duly completed applications must be submitted through ordinary post/registered post/Speed post or courier. Applications brought personally by the applicant or his/her relative or person known to the applicant will not be accepted by the department.**

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ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23.05.2023

**ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ KW- 4**

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ (e-Procurement) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಕೋಟ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ **ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 2059** ಹಾಗೂ 2216 ಅಡಿಯ **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು** ಒಟ್ಟು **02** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

WORK_INDENT NO – 168902, 168901 ಒಟ್ಟು = 02

(1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ–ಸಂದೇಹ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **31/05/2023** (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **01/06/2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **02/06/2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **03/06/2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,**
**ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.**

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/27/2023–24

# South Western Railway records highest gross revenue in FY 2022-23

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

South Western Railway(SWR) recorded the highest gross revenue of ₹8,071 crore and freight-loading performance in 2022-23 since its formation in 2003. It also carried over 150 million passengers, a record.

"For the first time since the inception of SWR, the gross revenue has crossed ₹8,000 crore. Further, the gross revenue in 2022-23 is higher than that recorded in 2021-22 by nearly 30%," Aneesh Hegde, Chief Public Relations Officer of SWR said in a press release.

Its registered gross revenue includes passenger revenue of ₹2,756 crore, freight revenue of ₹4,696 crore, sundry revenue of ₹348 crore, and other coaching of ₹271 crore. Other coaching refers to revenue earned through the utilisation of coaches, like running a train for marriage party or pilgrims, renting coaches for film shooting, etc. 3,506 parcel vans were leased, carrying 82,200 tonnes of essential commodities earning revenue of ₹57 crores by the SWR. As many as 170 leased Parcel Cargo Express Train carried 60,493 tonnes of cargo, contributing to revenue of ₹28 crore.

"In 2022-23, the zone recorded the highest-ever freight loading of 47.7 million tonnes, breaking the previous record of 46.24 million tonnes registered in 2007-08. This has been possible with a customer-centric approach adopted throughout the zone as well as due to concerted efforts in marketing the railway schemes and products by the Business Development Units set up in all the three Divisions of SWR," he said.

The SWR in 2022-23 transported 509 rakes of automobiles as compared to 238 rakes in the previous year. In the same year, SWR recorded the highest-ever loading in mineral oil (2.05 MT), cement (1.07 MT), and sugar (1.45 MT).

In 2022-23, South Western Railway carried over 150 million passengers.
FILE PHOTO

### A new high
In financial year 2022-23

| | |
|---|---|
| Gross revenue | ₹8,071 crore |
| Passenger revenue | ₹2,756 crore |
| Freight revenue | ₹4,696 crore |
| Sundry revenue | ₹348 crore |
| Other coaching | ₹271 crore |
| **FREIGHT TRANSPORT** | |
| Rakes of automobiles | 509 |
| Mineral oil | 2.05 tonnes |
| Cement | 1.07 tonnes |
| Sugar | 1.45 tonnes |

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Our client intends to purchase the immovable Property for valuable consideration from its original owners **Mr. AGY VARGHESE & Mrs. SMITHA AGY,** that if any person has any right title or right to claim over the schedule property they may come forward with the original documents and provide the manner of right, title in writing with the under sign, within **15 days** from today, on failure of any such objection/claim being received our client shall proceed with intended sale transaction and shall be deemed that no one has any right to claim over the schedule property right that may exist is waived off.

**SCHEDULE**

All the piece and parcel of Residential **Apartment No. B-002,** measuring 1818 Sq. ft of Super Built-up Area, inclusive of GARDEN AREA, with **THREE BEDROOMS** in the GROUND FLOOR of the building known as **"NAGARJUNA GREEN WOODS"** constructed on Block 'B' in the PROPERTY, together with proportionate share in other areas of common use with **ONE CAR PARKING** in the Basement along with **818.10 Sq. ft.** of undivided share, right, title and interest in land in the PROPERTY, together with right of use all the roads and civic amenities like parks, club house and other common amenities available, etc.,

**GP Rao and Associates**
#76, Murthy Building, 3rd Floor, D.V.G Road, Nettakallappa Circle, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004
Tel-26621124 / 9343323453
**Date :** 24-05-2023 **Place :** Bangalore.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that, I, **Mrs. BHAGYA B** W/o. Mr. Raju K, Aged about 44 years, Residing at No. 728, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Pipe line road, Kasturi Layout, Kamala Nagar, Bangalore-560079. I state that the Original Sale Deed, Dated 05.07.2004 which was executed by Mrs. G Gayathri Represented by her GPA Holder Mr. R M Narayanan in favour of Mr. B Narayanaswamy and duly registered as Document No. BLN-1-15623-2004-05 of Book-I and stored at CD No. BLND24 before the office of the Sub-registrar, Bangalore North Taluk. I also state that, I have lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed. A Complaint is also lodged in Crime Branch, Bangalore City Police on 24.05.2023 (Lost Report No.0573882/2023), in respect of the Schedule Property.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Northern Portion of **Property bearing Municipal No. 21,** House List No. 129/1, Katha No. 216, Situated at Kamakshipalya Village, Saneguruvanahalli Dhakale, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under BBMP Ward No. 102, Maruthi Nagar, 2nd Cross, **PID No. 17-60-21,** Municipal No. 21 and **measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 15 feet, in all measuring 600 Sq.ft** along with a building constructed upon and bounded by:

**East By : Yashodhamma's Property, West By : Road, North By : Other's Property, South By : Southern Portion of same Property bearing No. 129/1.**

Any person/s having objections or claims, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claim to the address below mentioned within **15 days** from the date of this Notice with the undersigned failing which my client shall proceed with the further transaction.

**Navya U,** B.com., LLB.
**Advocate and Legal Consultant**
**NSN Law Associates**
No. 1250, Manutej Towers, Magadi Main Road, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560079

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

In the Court of Sh. Mridul Gupta: Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC(Central), Room No.113, 1st Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054.
SC.No.-200/2022 N.D.O.H. 14.07.2023
**Ranjini E Jois** Vs. **State & Anr.**
Ranjini E Jois D/o Hedathale Ramakrishnan Eshwar Jois, R/o # 962,13th Main, 9th Cross, Srinagar, Bangalore, South, Karnataka - 560050 Petitioner...

**FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSON ACT. 1925**

To,
All Concerned
Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant / petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of **Late Salem Nanjundiah Subba Rao Deceased.**
Whereas the 14.07.2023 at 10'o clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing of the application notice is hereby given to this concerned.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 19.05.2023.

**(Mridul Gupta)**
**Admn. Civil-Judge-cum- ARC(Central)**
**Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
**IN THE COURT OF**
**SH. LAL SINGH, L.D. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT-01), SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT ROOM NO.18, 4TH FLOOR, BLOCK-1 SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI.**
**SUIT NO. CS/COMM/222/2022**
**P.M.D. PVT. LTD. ....Plaintiff**
**V/S**
**M/S Zarmain Distributor ..... Defendant**

**To,**
**M/S Zarmain Distributor, Through its Proprietor / Executive Mohd. Safiqulla at: 86, Venkatehwara Layout, BCC Layout attguppe, Railway Paralell Road, Near Bank of Baroda ATM, Vijaynagar, Banglore-560040 Email: Zarmain.dist@gmail.com Mobile: 9008322653**

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 26th Day of July 2023 the day fixed for the Final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 06th day of May, 2023.

**District Judge Commercial Court**
**South East District**
**Saket Court Complex New Delhi**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE PRINCIPLE DISTRICT JUDGE, KRISHNAGIRI**
**IA: 387/2018 IN OS: 196/2018**

**M/s.Venkraft Paper Mills Private Limited, Office at 4th floor JR Plaza, Tank Street, Hosur- 635109.**
...Petitioner/Plaintiff
/-Versus/-
Smt. Saraswathi, W/O D.L. Vinayaka, D/No.12, 13th Cross, 3rd "II" Main Road, Near Mohan Party hall, CholurPalya, Bangalore -500023.
... 4th Respondent/Proposed Party

**Notice**

Whereas the petitioner has filed an application under sections 136, 151 and Order 38 Rule 5 of CPC in the above matter. If you have got any objection you may appear, before this court, on 03-06.2023, at 10 am in the morning and file your objection. If not, the matter will be decided ex-parte.

(by order of this court)
Advocate
C.Karthick, B.A., B.L.,
14/1AA, 1st floor, Railway Station Road, Hosur - 635109

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**PERSONAL**
**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, CHAND** Maqbool Ahmed, Resident of #302, Golden Arch Apartment, 10th O Shaughnessy Road, Langford Garden, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru 560027 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Saleha Konain to Abiha vide affidavit dated 24.05.2023 sworn before Notary B.V.Nagabhushana, Bengaluru.

**I, SAYEE** Chandrasekar Moului S/O Ellappan born on 09/07/1991 residing at 2/565, B6, Phase 3, Nandhavanam Layout, Hosur, have changed my name to Sayee Chandrasekara Mouli Ellappan vide affidavit dated 04/02/2023 at Hosur. by, Sayee Chandrasekara Mouli Ellappan

**I, ASHOK** Kumar, S/o. Swaroop Chandji, R/a No.101, 1st Floor, 5th Main Road, Parasmabi Gold Crest, K.G.Nagar, Bangalore-560019 have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Jain vide affidavit dt: 21.02.2023 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, B'lore

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**BEFORE THE DISTRICT MUNSIF-CUM-JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, VEPPANTHATTAI**

**O.S.No.906/2019**
**(Perambalur District Munsif Court O.S.No.210/2019)**

**Suriyaprakasam**
**S/o. Ramasamy Goundar,**
**No.29, West Srinivasapuram,**
**Poolambadi Village & Post,**
**Veppanthattai Taluk,**
**Perambalur District, Tamil Nadu. ... Plaintiff**

**Vs.,**

**Kavitha W/o.Janakiraman,**
**No.19, Survey 88/3,**
**Horamavu, Agara,**
**Main Road, Kalyan Nagar,**
**Bengaluru, Karnattaka – 560 075. ... Defendant**

**Court Notice**

**Please take notice that the above named plaintiff has filed the suit in O.S.No.210/2019 before D.M.C, Perambalur and the same is transferred to Veppannthattai District Munsif in O.S.906/2019 against the above named defendant for specific performance of the contract in enforcement of the registered sale agreement dated 12.07.2018 (Doct.No.2149/2018 SRO Veppanthattai) and even after several times Court summons sent to you the defendant has been returned as unserved. Hence you will the defendant is strictly instructed to appear either in person or through any advocate on 02.06.2023 at 10.00 A.M. before Veppanthattai District Munsif or else exparte order will be passed against you the defendant.**

**R.Senthamaraikkannan B.A.,M.L.,**
**Advocate**
**Perambalur**

# Making agri commodity value chains sustainable is tough

Ensuring an agricultural commodity value chain is environmentally sustainable is a multi-dimensional challenge. Four dimensions in particular vex efforts to mitigate its environmental impact while benefiting farmers

Manan Bhan

India has a long history of producing agricultural commodities, and has been a hub for the global spices, tea, and coffee trade for several centuries. Its scale and diversity have gone from strength to strength over the last three decades, such that the share of high-value agricultural commodities in the total GDP of the agricultural sector has significantly expanded.

The growth has coincided with the rise of narratives and initiatives focused on ensuring sustainability in the commodity value chains. This is an acknowledgment of this sector's contribution to environmental degradation, including through carbon emissions across the whole supply chain and the injudicious use of water and chemicals, which also threaten the long-term viability of production. There now exist reliable estimates of the emissions per unit of production for several commodities in different production systems.

## Commodity crops

From a global sustainability viewpoint, agricultural commodities are often defined based on the level of their orientation towards international demand and supply in the form of exports. Here, commodity crops are those "primarily grown to be sold on international markets" (source).

In this framing there are a few key commodities of global significance, like soybean, cocoa, coffee, tea, rubber, palm oil, and cotton. They are critically related to global sustainability challenges and currently drive significant environmental and climatic risks, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, freshwater depletion, and soil degradation.

India, as one of the anchors of global agricultural commodity trade both as major consumer and producer, needs to expand this understanding to include commodities that are actively imported, such as oilseeds; whose production is both for domestic and international markets (fruits and vegetables); and which get significant attention within the policy and action spaces (rice and cotton).

Interventions in the production, trade and consumption of these commodities is likely to drive transformational impacts on environmental sustainability across the sector.

Pearl millet crop in Tamil Nadu. M. PRABHU

## Challenges to sustainability?

Against this background, ensuring that an agricultural commodity value chain is environmentally sustainable is a multi-dimensional challenge. Four dimensions in particular vex efforts to mitigate its environmental impact while benefiting farmers, processors, retailers, etc.

**First**, market and producer characteristics determine where responsible and effective practices can be implemented to have the greatest impact. Nudges for commodities oriented towards foreign markets may often be determined by India's export policies or consumer preferences and regulations of sourcing destinations.

For example, the expansion of cold-storage facilities to make export-oriented commodities more competitive in global markets is expected to increase energy demand. Estimating how this energy need will be met – through fossil fuels or renewables – is likely to determine the emissions associated with that commodity.

In contrast, evolving robust policies on production, processing, and retail could help enforce changes for the relatively price-sensitive and brand-agnostic Indian consumer.

It is also important to consider producer attributes. For commodity production led by agri-businesses, especially those with a global footprint, sector-wide sustainability commitments and standards can drive the adoption of practices on the ground. Domestic efforts, in these cases, would be well-placed to focus on holding these organisations accountable and ensuring these commitments are being met on the ground.

In the case of smallholders, effective and low-cost certification could be one way to improve practices throughout the value chain, simultaneously mitigating the environmental impact and delivering price premiums to producers. This can be supplemented by coordinated policy action to raise the floor to a minimum set of production, sourcing, and retailing standards and practices.

> The success of any environmental sustainability initiative hinges on getting impacted people onboard and providing them with safety nets

**Second**, the nature of production significantly determines the nature of intervention. Commodity production may be in intensive or extensive agricultural systems, or in the case of some commodities like tea or rubber, in agroforestry systems. In these cases, whether we adopt better land-use strategies is determined by the nature of the production process, including the type of field preparation, the quality of seeds, and the amount and nature of inputs.

Regionally, some efforts have led to climate, biodiversity, and livelihood benefits while helping preserve our ecological heritage in production landscapes. For example, evidence suggests that the introduction of biodiversity-friendly coffee in Karnataka has mitigated human-animal conflicts in the region to a significant extent. Similarly, the public attention on millets, through the declaration of the 'International Year of Millets', has helped widen demand across Indian and international consumers.

**Third**, strong governance mechanisms and policies support value chains, either by providing subsidies, market access, and infrastructural support in terms of extension, processing, and storage facilities – or by a combination of several such aspects. Repurposing such support to improve production, sourcing, and consumption by targeting healthy and natural solutions can help have transformational impacts in commodity value chains.

For example, to incentivise agri-businesses to report on and reduce the environmental consequences of their supply chain, targeted regulation may prove useful. Some of these initiatives are currently operational already.

To wit, national guidelines on responsible business urge organisations to encourage and support their suppliers, distributors, partners, and other stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices.

**Fourth**, no initiative to mitigate the environmental effects of agricultural value chains can be complete without benefiting the large number of people that depend on these value chains for sustenance. Issues with working conditions and labour rights are depressingly common in commodity value chains in India. Even when it comes to enacting policies and regulations or sustainability commitments on the ground, the burden of responsibility to change practices typically falls on those who are most marginalised, and thus have the least agency to shape initiatives or direct actions.

The success of any environmental sustainability initiative hinges on getting actors like them onboard and providing them with adequate safety nets – while also accounting for the climate crisis's effects on production. These safety nets could take the form of rewarding compliance, committing to support farm-level flexibility, and evolving robust insurance mechanisms.

These four dimensions are what make mitigating environmental impacts in agricultural commodity value chains so difficult to achieve in practice. But they also present opportunities.

There are ways through which concerted and coordinated action can have a positive impact on commodity value chains. If such actions are combined with the right kind of support systems while keeping equity and justice in mind, agricultural commodity value chains can deliver for India's people and its environment.

*(With inputs from Satwiki Adla and Puneet Bansal.)*

*(Manan Bhan is Fellow in Residence, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru.)*

A group of scientists studied travel speeds of 532 animal species to arrive at the result. M.A. SRIRAM

# *Animals of intermediate mass travel faster, say scientists*

Priyali Prakash

Could the speed at which large animals move be limited by how much heat their bodies are capable of dissipating? A study published on April 18, 2023, suggests so.

A group of German scientists studied the travel speeds of 532 animal species to arrive at the result: that the highest travel speeds are achieved by animals that have intermediate body mass. On the other hand, larger animals must reduce their speeds to avoid hyperthermia during extended periods of motion. Hyperthermia is a condition that causes an abnormally high body temperature.

The ability to move is crucial for animals because it allows them to access resources and reproductive opportunities they need to survive in fragmented ecosystems. Animals' moving speeds usually depend on the mode of locomotion (flying, running, swimming, etc.), body mass, and the experienced temperature.

**Metabolic heat is the inevitable by-product of muscular contractions, and is directly proportional to the amount of physical work, including locomotion**

The study used a hump-shaped relationship between travel speed and body mass, based on previously studied models of maximum speed. The study paper also pointed out that thus far, few other studies have considered how metabolic heat can limit movement speed.

Metabolic heat is the inevitable by-product of muscular contractions, and is directly proportional to the amount of physical work, including locomotion. To keep the core body temperature stable, an animal's body must sufficiently dissipate 'excess' heat to its surroundings. So it is important for animals to decrease their metabolic demands when heat dissipation can't balance metabolic heat production.

This is why animals must reduce their speeds.

The researchers used three models of how travel speed varies with body mass: a simple metabolic model, a constant heat-dissipation model, and an allometric heat-dissipation model. Comparing between the three showed that the allometric heat-dissipation model best describes the systematic relationship between body mass and realised animal travel speeds across flying, running, and swimming.

This model provided also an important insight: even though the largest animals possess the metabolic potential to sustain higher speeds, the speed that they do realise is limited by the risk of hyperthermia.

The study also provided an understanding of animal travel velocities, based on the laws of physics, that can be generalised across species even when biological details of the individual species are unknown. This will help make more realistic predictions of biodiversity dynamics in divided landscapes, as consequences of anthropogenic activities like climate change disrupt the natural movements of animals.

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

# The cells that are naturally 'made for each other'

V.V. Ramanan

**QUESTION #1**
The largest cell and the smallest cell in the human body are naturally 'made for each other'. Yet almost always a normal body will contain only one of these cells and not both. Which are these cells?

**QUESTION #2**
What five-letter word refers to a large ecosystem where plants, animals, insects, and people live in a certain type of climate?
For example, in Brazil, one would be in a hot and humid _____ called the tropical rainforest.

**QUESTION #3**
There are three 'French' chemical elements because of their nomenclature. One is francium. Name the other two.

**QUESTION #4**
Used primarily in fertilisers, which element is never found free in nature even though it makes up about 2.5% of the earth's crust?

**QUESTION #5**
From which type of protein is the common food additive gelatin derived?

**Visual question:** Name this English scientist primarily responsible for one of the greatest inventions in the last quarter of the 20th century.
Paul Clarke, CC BY-SA 4.0

**Answers to May 23 quiz:**
1) Name of layer below the abyssal zone – **Ans: Hadal zone**
2) Comes from layers above and melted ice – **Ans: Oxygen**
3) Distinction of cusk eel found in 1970 – **Ans: Deepest living fish found**
4) Animal similar to 1941 Disney film character – **Ans: Dumbo octopus**
5) Name of tendency for deep invertebrates to grow larger – **Ans: Gigantism**
Visual: This photo shows three men inside a vessel built by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, to carry a small crew to 5 km below sea level. Name the vessel. –**Ans: MATSYA 6000**
**First contact:** Siva Shakthi A. | Anusha Tomar | Sakshee Singh | Anjali Srivastava

**For feedback and suggestions**
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

# Fear of flooding forces techie to leave ₹1.08 crore villa and cough up rent in lakhs

Many residents living in flood-prone Sai Layout at Horamavu have also relocated to escape flooding

**Shreyas H.S.**
BENGALURU

The Sai Layout at Hennur after heavy rains in August 2022.

A 43-year-old techie residing in his plush villa will be relocating to a nearby gated community as fear of flooding during monsoon looms large at the upscale Rainbow Drive Layout off Sarjapur Road. Karthik Krishnan has rented a house at Muthanallur cross on Sarjapur-Marathahalli road, to which he will be shifting his family on June 1 and will end up paying ₹1.2 lakh a month.

This is not an isolated instance of flood-driven displacement in the tech city. Many residents of Sri Sai Layout in Horamavu have also relocated to escape the deluge caused by the torrential rains.

**2022 flooding**

It may be recalled that 25-year-old RBD Layout spread across about 35 acres faced the worst flooding in September 2022, forcing the residents to travel on boats for a few days to work. The residents also hired tractors to ferry children to schools.

However, after about eight months, the scenario has not changed despite Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) carrying out a few measures. The tussle between BBMP and the Residents Welfare Association (RWA) which has now entered the courts, has paused the works.

**Storm-water drain**

Mr. Krishnan, who had bought the villa for ₹1.08 crore in 2010, has now rented another house for which he has to pay ₹1.2 lakh per month, including maintenance. While his house was partially flooded last year, a compound wall constructed by the RWA on the east side of the layout will increase the volume of the flood. He has now moved court against the RWA to raze the wall, which the BBMP has termed illegal. The BBMP, in February 2023, issued a notice to the RWA to raze the structure erected on a stormwater drain (SWD).

Mr. Krishnan told *The Hindu*, "To avert flooding, the BBMP has built a parallel drain on the entrance of the layout, while the SWD that starts from Halanayakanahalli lake is partially completed." He rued that for no fault of his, he has to now incur an additional burden of ₹ 13 lakh as the rental agreement was signed for a standard period of 11 months. The new residence is located about 11 km from his layout. His two children also faced problems during the monsoon as they were unable to attend school properly. He is planning to come back after BBMP fully resolves flooding issues at the RBD which he hopes will happen before April 2024.

Basavaraj Kabade, Chief Engineer (SWD), BBMP, said the Halanayakanahalli SWD has to pass through the RBD to which the RWA has objected. Currently, the drain was constructed up to the mouth of the RBD layout. Another BBMP official said the RWA had moved the court, claiming that no houses are constructed on the drains inside the layout seeking protection, due to which BBMP had stopped work.

**Flood management**

In another part of the city, Neelufar Ahmad, a resident of Sai Layout, said nearly 30 families who were residing here on rent had left the place ahead of monsoon. As the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and BBMP failed to complete flood-management work, inundation during heavy rains will continue. Ms. Ahmad says the residents here have to park their vehicles on the main road during the rains as houses will be inundated.

Mohammad Shah Jahan, who built a house at the layout about 23 years ago, has now left the place and rented another home near the Hennur bus stand. "I pay ₹22,000 rent per month, and I visit my house at Sai Layout once a week for cleaning. The then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had promised to complete the work this April, but the deadline was not met. We don't know how long we have to wait to come back to our houses." he said.

# BBMP readies audit report of 13 underpasses

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) completed the audit of 13 underpasses and flagged three U-shaped underpasses as vulnerable to flooding. There are a total of 53 underpasses in the city.

B.S. Prahlad, Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure), BBMP, who is carrying out the health check-up of the underpasses, said he has recommended a slew of measures which will be implemented immediately. A few measures suggested by his team are the installation of boom barriers to restrict movement of vehicles during heavy rains and construction of drains for free flow of rainwater. For other underpasses, BBMP has suggested clear silt as a precaution to avoid possible flooding.

It may be recalled that BBMP started the audit of these structures after a 23-year-old techie died after a multipurpose utility vehicle in which she was travelling along with family drowned in flood water at K.R. Circle underpass. The rainwater, which flowed from four roads converging at K.R. Junction, flooded the underpass as the gratings were choked due to fallen dry leaves and branches that fell due to gusty winds, according to the BBMP.

# 255 trees uprooted, 1,050 branches broken in pre-monsoon downpour

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

About 255 trees were uprooted due to moderate to heavy rains accompanied by gusty winds in the last five days. As many as 1,050 branches were broken in the city, said Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Commissioner, BBMP.

Mr. Giri Nath on Wednesday visited flood-affected areas in parts of the city to take stock of the situation and instructed a slew of measures to officials to avert flooding during the monsoon.

In the Rajajinagar Assembly constituency, he inspected works related to the clearing of fallen trees and branches. The forest wing of the BBMP lifted the huge trunks using cranes.

Tree uprooted at R.T. Nagar following rain on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

While directing the officials to complete the work soon, the forest officials informed him that in many parts of the city, work had been already completed.

At Belakanahalli in the Bommanahalli zone, Mr. Giri Nath instructed stormwater drain officials to ensure rajakaluve does not overflow. He also asked officials to clear the debris in waterlogged areas.

Near Rainbow Drive Layout where trees were fallen on the roads obstructing traffic movement, the officials were directed to hire private workers and clear it immediately to ensure the safety of commuters on Sarjapura road.

# 48 Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Centres inaugurated

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has opened 48 temporary Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (RRR) centres in the city, as part of a campaign.

The BBMP is conducting the "My Life and My Clean City" campaign from May 20 to June 5.

According to a release by the civic body on Wednesday, the public can drop off items such as plastic carry bags, toys, old jeans, uniforms, saris, old magazines, newspapers, old books, plastic items, and electronic items that can be reused and recycled at these RRR centres.

The centres across the city are opened under the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 programme. According to the BBMP, these centres will play a key role in the proper disposal and recycling of waste.

**E-certificate**

Citizens, educational institutions, business establishments, and other industries can use the RRR centres. The BBMP said that whoever drops off the items will get an e-certificate, and those who drop off more items will be awarded gifts as an encouragement to participate in the initiative. The centres are open between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. from May 20 to June 5.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **THURSDAY, MAY. 25** | | |
| RISE | 05:53 | SET 18:40 |
| RISE | 10:31 | SET 23:39 |
| **FRIDAY, MAY. 26** | | |
| RISE | 05:53 | SET 18:41 |
| RISE | 11:22 | SET 00:00 |
| **SATURDAY, MAY. 27** | | |
| RISE | 05:53 | SET 18:41 |
| RISE | 12:10 | SET 00:19 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 35 | 27 |
| Mysuru | 34 | 20 |
| Bengaluru | 32 | 20 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**34°C** The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**33°C** A mostly dry weather to prevail.Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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# CLAT 2024 to be held in December

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) 2024, which is the gateway to national law schools, will be held on December 3, 2023.

The executive committee and governing body of the Consortium of National Law Universities met the National Law Institute University, in Bhopal on May 20, to arrive at the decision.

The consortium also said that further details regarding the syllabus, application, and counseling process will be released shortly.

# G20 delegates take bus ride in city to explore 'Bengaluru Story'

G20 delegates posing for a picture in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue on the premises of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Delegates from G20 member countries, who are currently attending a three-day Second Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting in Bengaluru, took a bus ride to explore the city on Wednesday evening.

Some 100 people, including delegates from member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organisations were part of the guided city bus tour titled 'The Bengaluru Story' conceptualised by the Karnataka Tourism Department. The tour gave a glimpse of India's fastest growing city, its beautiful gardens and the prowess that Bengaluru has gained as the country's Silicon Valley, said the department.

At the Bangalore Palace, the delegates witnessed turreted parapets, battlements, fortified towers and arches that adorn the regal architectural masterpiece, whose design drew inspiration from England's Windsor Castle. The delegates also visited the Museum of Art and Photography, Cubbon Park and Vidhana Soudha. The bus tour concluded with a visit to the Mahatma Gandhi statue where a group photo session was held.

The delegation also visited the Coffee Board of India's Experience Zone. The tour culminated with a cultural programme depicting Karnataka's well-known legacy of cultural traditions and dance forms, and performances by Kalaanidhi Nruthya Mandiram, Space Kathak and Shree Natya Niketan and dinner.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### The cost of one crate of eggs in some parts of Manipur

**300** In rupees. Since the ethnic violence in the State, commodity costs have shot up. A 50kg bag of rice costs ₹1,800, up from ₹900. LPG cylinders are sold in the black market at ₹1,800. A litre of petrol costs ₹170 in many parts. PTI

### The number of internally displaced Sudanese citizens

**1** In million. A further 3,19,000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, with more than 1,32,000 refugees arriving in Egypt, 80,000 in Chad and 69,000 in South Sudan. The data was released by the International Organization for Migration. AFP

### The number of electric cars Uber will add to its India fleet

**25,000** This is as part of the launch of Uber Green in June. It is also expected to roll out 10,000 electric two-wheelers in Delhi by 2024, along with Zypp Electric, another EV start-up. REUTERS

### The number of troops who died in the Bakhmut battle

**20,000** The figure was in stark contrast to claims by Moscow which said it lost just over 6,000 troops. It is higher than the estimate of Soviet losses in the Afghanistan war between 1979-89. AP

### The market value of LIC investment in Adani stocks soar

**44,670** In ₹ crore. The value of its holdings increased by around ₹5,500 crore since April. Its big bet is Adani Ports where it holds 9.12% shares. PTI

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# On copyright infringement and AI

How do U.S. courts determine whether a use case is considered fair use or infringement? What is the Andy Warhol Foundation case? What have the courts decided on the case and how does it affect the future of generative artificial intelligence?

EXPLAINER

Arul George Scaria

**The story so far:**
The recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Inc. versus Goldsmith et al.* has added more unpredictability to the process of being exempted from copyright infringement liabilities. The judgment is set to have implications for how we regulate a powerful form of artificial intelligence.

**To what extent does copyright law protect artists?**
Copyright law protects the work of diverse artists, including photographers, and provides a set of exclusive rights for artists over their creative output. This includes controlling the manner in which others reproduce or modify their work. However, these exclusive rights are balanced with the rights of the users of such work, including other artists who might want to build on or comment on them, with the help of diverse exceptions under the copyright law.

**What is exempt from infringement liability?**
Different jurisdictions follow different approaches to exceptions. Some countries, particularly those in continental Europe, adopt the 'enumerated exceptions approach'– the use in question needs to be specifically covered under the statute to be considered as an exception to copyright infringement. Some others, including the U.S., follow an open-ended approach that does not specify exemptions beforehand, instead, they have guidelines about the types of uses that can be exempted.

The U.S. courts primarily consider four factors when determining whether a particular use can be considered to be an instance of fair use – the purpose and character of the use; the nature of the copyrighted work; the amount and substantiality of the portion taken by the defendant, and the effect of the use on the potential market of the plaintiff's work. Of these, the U.S. courts have been giving the highest importance to the first factor – whether the use of something can be considered "transformative" has often played the most critical role in determining the final outcome in a fair-use case.

This open-ended approach to exceptions provides U.S. copyright law considerable flexibility and strength to deal with challenges posed by emerging technologies on the copyright system. However, it has a major limitation: there is no way to know whether an activity will be exempted from liabilities until after litigation. That is, it is very hard to predict *ex ante* whether an activity will be exempted from copyright infringement liabilities.

**What is the AWF case?**
Known for her concert and portrait shots, Lynn Goldsmith photographed the famous musician Prince in 1981. One of those photos was licensed in 1984 to *Vanity Fair* magazine for use as an "artist reference". The licence specifically said the illustration could appear once as a full-page element and once as a one-quarter page element, in the magazine's 1984 November issue. *Vanity Fair* paid Ms. Goldsmith $400 for the licence.

It then hired the celebrated visual artist Andy Warhol to work on the illustration. Mr. Warhol made a silkscreen portrait of Prince using Goldsmith's photo. It appeared in the magazine with appropriate credits to Ms. Goldsmith. But while the licence had authorised only one illustration, Mr. Warhol additionally created 13 screen prints and two pencil sketches. In 2016, Condé Nast, the media conglomerate that publishes *Vanity Fair*, approached the Andy Warhol Foundation (AWF) to reuse the 1984 illustration as part of a story on Prince. But when they realised that there were more portraits available, they opted to publish one of them instead (an orange silkscreen portrait). As part of the licence to use it, they paid $10,000 to AWF, and nothing to Ms. Goldsmith.

When the AWF realised that Ms. Goldsmith may file a copyright infringement suit, it filed a suit to declare that it had not committed infringement. Ms. Goldsmith then counter-sued AWF for copyright infringement.

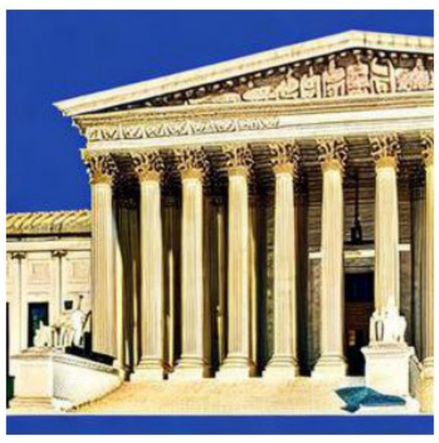
**What did the courts find?**
First, a district court summarily ruled in favour of the AWF, opining that Mr. Warhol's use of Ms. Goldsmith's photo constituted fair-use. The court banked on the first factor and held that Mr. Warhol's work was "transformative" as they "have a different character, give Goldsmith's photograph a new expression, and employs new aesthetics with creative and communicative results distinct from Goldsmith's". It also observed that Mr. Warhol's work added something new to the world of art "and the public would be deprived of this contribution if the works could not be distributed".

However, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit reversed these findings and disagreed that Mr. Warhol's use of the photograph constituted fair-use. The case subsequently went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which delivered its verdict on May 18, 2023.

The majority of judges concluded that if an original work and secondary work have more or less similar purposes and if the secondary use is of a commercial nature, the first factor may not favour a fair-use interpretation unless there are other justifications for copying.

In this particular instance, according to the majority decision, both Ms. Goldsmith's photos and Mr. Warhol's adaptations had more or less the same purpose – to portray Prince. The majority said that while copying may have helped convey a new meaning or message, that in itself did not suffice under the first factor. The dissenting opinion focused extensively on how art is produced, particularly the fact that no artists create anything out of a vacuum. Justice Elena Kagan, author of this opinion, wrote of the need for a broader reading of 'transformative use' for the progress of arts and science. The dissenters also opined that Mr. Warhol's addition of important "new expression, meaning and message" tilted the first factor in favour of a finding of fair-use.

**How does this affect generative AI?**
While this dispute arose in the context of the use of a photograph as an artistic reference, the implications of the court's finding are bound to ripple across the visual arts at large. The majority position could challenge the manner in which many generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT4, MidJourney, and Stable Diffusion, have been conceived. These models' makers 'train' them on text, photos, and videos strewn around the internet, copyrighted or not.



An image by the Stable Diffusion AI in response to the prompt "an image of the U.S. Supreme Court in the style of Andy Warhol".

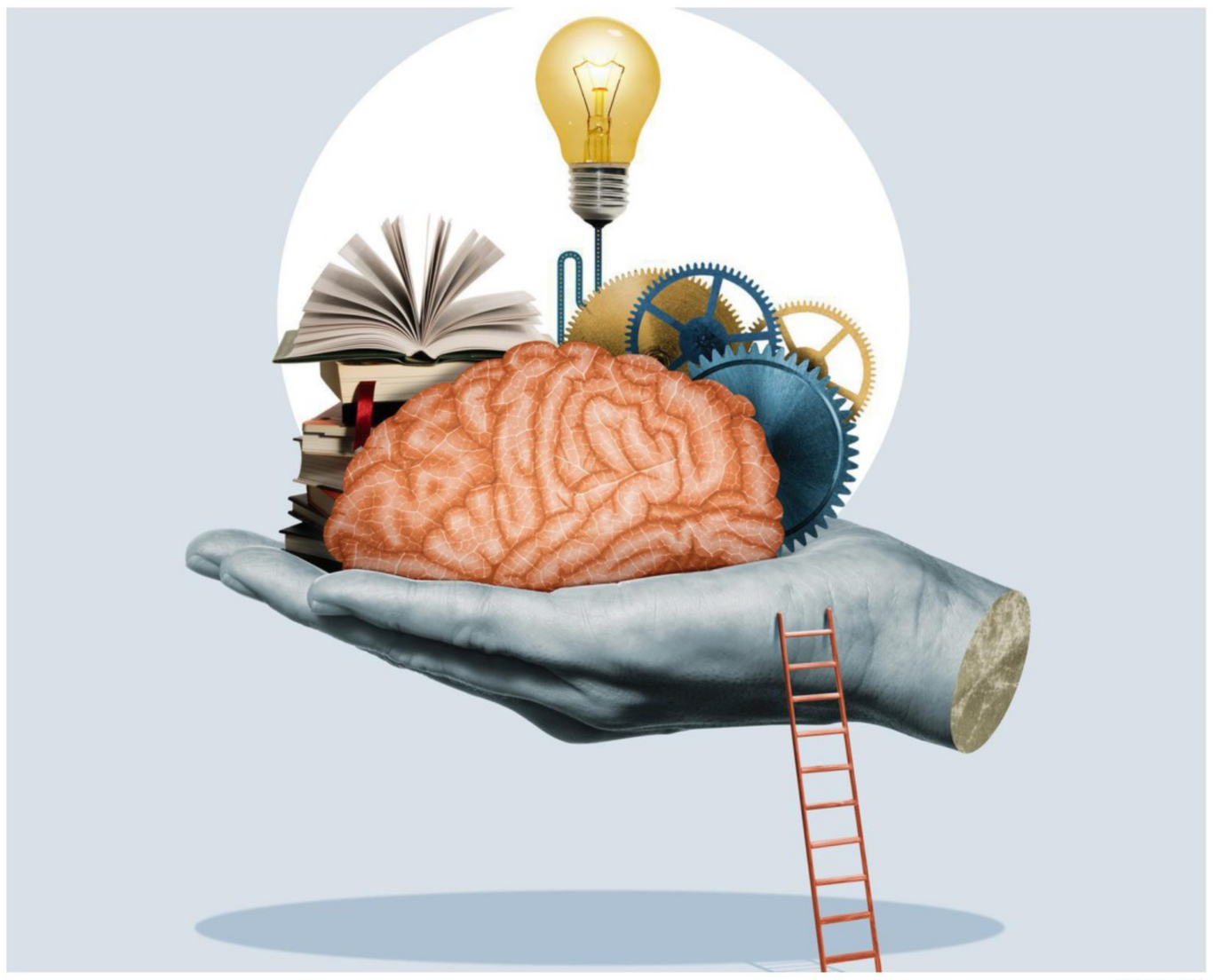
For example, if someone is using a generative AI tool to create pictures in the style of Mr. Warhol, and if the resulting images are similar to any of the work of Mr. Warhol, a court is likelier now to rule against this being described as fair use, taking the view that both the copyrighted work and the models' output serve similar purposes.

The majority's reliance on the commercial nature of the use may also result in substantial deviation from the established view – that the commercial nature of the use in itself cannot negate a finding of fair use. But the true extent of the implications of the verdict will be clear only when trial courts begin applying the ratio in this judgment to future cases.

**What about the implications on Indian copyright law?**
There may not be any direct implications for Indian copyright law, as the framework of exceptions here is different. India follows a hybrid model of exception in which fair dealing with copyrighted work is exempted for some specific purposes under Section 52(1)(a) of the Copyright Act 1957. India also has a long list of enumerated exceptions.

This said, the observations by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision could have a persuasive effect, particularly when determining 'fairness' as part of a fair-dealing litigation. Then again, only time will tell which one will have a more persuasive effect – the majority or the minority.

*Arul George Scaria is an associate professor at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU).*



ISTOCKPHOTO

## THE GIST

- Copyright law protects the work of diverse artists and provides a set of exclusive rights for artists over their creative output. However, these exclusive rights are balanced with the rights of the users of such work, including other artists who might want to build on or comment on them, with the help of diverse exceptions under the copyright law.
- Different jurisdictions follow different approaches to exceptions. The U.S. follows an open-ended approach that does not specify exemptions beforehand while India follows a hybrid model of exception in which fair dealing with copyrighted work is exempted for some specific purposes under Section 52(1)(a) of the Copyright Act 1957.
- The recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Inc. versus Goldsmith et al.* has added more unpredictability to the process of being exempted from copyright infringement liabilities.

## INBRIEF

### Gaurav Gupta is Additional Chief Secretary, Energy

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Infrastructure, Gaurav Gupta has been transferred and posted as ACS, Energy. His posting has assumed importance in the wake of the Energy Department set to play a crucial role of supplying 200 units of free power to all households as per the poll assurance of of the Congress. Meanwhile, IAS officer Jayaram N. has been given a concurrent charge of the post of Secretary to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

### Assembly adjourned *sine die*

The Legislative Assembly on Wednesday adjourned *sine die* after the three-day session, which saw swearing in of newly elected MLAs as members of the House and election of the Speaker U.T. Khader.

### Ibrahim submits resignation as JD(S) State president

JD (S) State president C.M. Ibrahim announced resignation from the post on moral grounds in the wake of the poll debacle of the party, which won only 19 seats in the Assembly polls. He told mediapersons that he had submitted resignation to the post and it was left to the party top leaders to decide on it.

# Khader is the second youngest Speaker

The five-time MLA who first won in a bypoll in 2007 has not lost an election; he is also the second MLA to become Speaker from Dakshina Kannada

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

U.T. Khader greeting legislators after being unanimously elected as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Also seen are Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai ,and pro tem Speaker R.V. Deshpande. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Congress leader U.T. Khader, 54, who was unanimously elected as the Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, is the second youngest Speaker of the Assembly after K.R. Ramesh Kumar, who became the Speaker at the age of 43 in 1994 in the H.D. Deve Gowda-led government.

Mr. Khader, the soft-spoken politician who represents Mangaluru constituency, is also the second MLA to become the Speaker from Dakshina Kannada district. The late Bantwal Vaikunta Baliga, elected from Belthangady, was the first to hold the post from the district during 1962-68.

N. Yogish Bhat, who hails from the same district, served as the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly during the BJP government during 2009-13. Former Supreme Court judge late K.S. Hegde, who also hails from Dakshina Kannada, had served as the Lok Sabha Speaker during the Janata government (1977-80). He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bengaluru South in the 1977 general elections.

Mr. Kharder belongs to the Beary sect of the Muslim community and speaks Kannada in a unique style, sometimes with a smattering of Tulu words. Born on October 12, 1969, Mr. Khader served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition when BJP was in charge of the government (2019-23). He was Health, and the Food and Civil Supplies Minister in the Siddaramaiah-led government during 2013-18. In the JD(S)-Congress coalition government in 2018-19, Mr. Khader held the portfolios of Housing and Urban Development.

He studied law in SDM Law College, Mangaluru, and holds a bachelor's degree. He started his political career as a district functionary of the NSUI in the 1990s.

His first contest was the 2007 bypoll from the erstwhile Ullal constituency (now Mangaluru) after the death of his father U.T. Fareed, who was the MLA. Since then, he has won every election from Mangaluru constituency.

People cutting across parties congratulated Mr. Khader on his election.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pointed out that Mr. Khader had won an award in 2012 for asking the highest number of questions in the Assembly. He was a politician with a secular mindset, said the Chief Minister, recalling his services to the party as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Healthy debate**

Mr. Siddaramaiah noted that law and order and growth of the State complement each other and suggested he find ways for conducting healthy debates in the House. He assured support for restoring the dignity and smooth conduct of the proceedings in the House. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai hoped his rulings in the Legislature would become landmarks. He appealed to the Speaker to give more opportunities to first-time members to speak during the debate.

H.K. Patil (Congress) said the Speaker should guide the government and uphold the relevance of reports of the Public Accounts Committee and other committees of the House.

**Paperless office**

T.B. Jayachandra (Congress) suggested to the Speaker to transform the Assembly as paperless House with use of social media tools. He also asked the Speaker to ensure compulsory attendance of officials.

Mr. Khader thanked the Congress and BJP for ensuring his unanimous election. He said he would take all steps for safeguarding the rights and privileges of members.

# CLP sets target of winning 20 Lok Sabha seats

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing Congress legislators at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting on Wednesday set a target of winning at least 20 Parliamentary seats in Karnataka in the 2024 general elections.

**'Don't be complacent'**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who presided over the meeting and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar, told the newly elected legislators and Ministers not to be complacent about their victory and to respond towards the problems faced by the people in their respective constituencies.

Mr. Shivakumar said the next challenge before the legislators was to ensure victory of the party candidates in 20 Lok Sabha constituencies in Karnataka and a majority of seats in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike elections.

He told Ministers, who would be soon appointed as in-charge Ministers for different districts, and MLAs to prepare to open the party offices in their respective constituencies to connect with voters. As the voters have trusted the Congress, the government's aim was to provide a clean administration, the Deputy Chief Minister said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah told the MLAs to counter the false propaganda of the BJP and expose the Narendra Modi-led government's failures.

The Congress and JD (S) won one seat each out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka in the 2019 general elections. The BJP won 25 while an Independent supported by the BJP (Sumalatha) won in Mandya.

# CM, Dy. CM leave for Delhi to hold talks on Cabinet expansion

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar left for New Delhi on Wednesday and both are expected to meet the Congress high command and discuss Cabinet expansion on Thursday.

They are also expected to talk about allocation of portfolios to the existing Ministers.

Both have left in separate flights to the national capital with their own loyal MLAs.

Congress sources said that the party high command approved the first list of eight Ministers, against the earlier plan of inducting more than a two dozen legislators into the Cabinet, as there were allegedly differences between Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar over some names, during the discussions held in New Delhi last week, ahead of the swearing in.

**Slew of meetings**

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar are expected to meet AICC chief M. Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala, K.C. Venugopal and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and discuss issues related to the expansion of the Cabinet and portfolios.

With a large number of MLAs and MLCs aspiring to become Ministers, striking a balance between all communities, regions, factions, and also from among the old and new legislators, is the daunting task before Mr. Siddaramaiah.

The 135-strong mandate represents a broad rainbow social coalition.

**Allocation awaited**

The sanctioned strength of the Karnataka Cabinet is 34, including the Chief Minister. Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar were sworn in as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, respectively, along with eight legislators as Ministers on May 20. Portfolios have not been allocated to the Ministers since then and is expected to happen only after Cabinet expansion.

### CM, DKS are lowering morale of police: Bommai

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Taking exception to the tone and tenor of the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister at the review of the Police Department, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has alleged that the Congress government was trying to bring down the morale of the department to help implement its own agenda of "appeasement politics."

He claimed his regime had never indulged in "saffronisation" of the police force.

# True colours of Cong. on 'guarantees' exposed: HDK

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Taking exception to the Congress government's stance that conditions would apply with respect to implementation of some of its guarantees (major poll promises), former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday remarked that the "true colours of the Congress had been exposed within a week of coming to power."

He also indicated that the party would take up a struggle against the Congress dispensation along with people if people were "cheated" with respect to guarantees.

"The Congress earlier announced that its guarantees would be given to all the people and a decision in this regard will be made in the first Cabinet meeting itself. But the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are now saying that conditions would apply with respect to implementation of poll guarantees. Isn't it injustice?" he wondered, while interacting with mediapersons in Bengaluru.

# Ahead of JD(S) introspection meet today, Deve Gowda tries to instil confidence in party MLAs

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

JD(S) national president H.D. Deve Gowda holding a review meeting on the party's performance in the Assembly election, at his residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ahead of the introspection meeting of the JD(S) on the results of Karnataka Assembly elections on Thursday, former Prime Minister and party patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda tried to instil confidence among the cadre by asking them not to lose heart because they lacked arithmetical strength.

Mr. Gowda, who addressed a meeting of newly elected MLAs of the party at his residence in Bengaluru, remarked: "Do not be concerned that we have been reduced to 19 seats. Let us work towards winning 119 seats. I will work for the duty till my death. None of you should lose courage."

"I have lost several times. But I did not hide myself in the house when I lost and did not become arrogant when I won. I have worked with humility and commitment at all times and fought against the ruling party," he said.

**National executive**

Meanwhile, JD (S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said the national executive of the party too would be held in Bengaluru on Thursday along with the introspection meeting to decipher the reasons for the poll debacle.

He said some major changes would be made in the party organisation in the interest of the party's future.

### Rumblings of rift between Suresh and Patil continue

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A day after exchange of words through media between Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh and Minister M.B. Patil over continuation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for the next five years, the duo on Wednesday are learnt to have had an unpleasant exchange on the corridors of the State Secretariat where the session concluded on Wednesday.

Mr. Patil and Mr. Suresh came face-to-face on the third floor of the Secretariat when the Congress Legislature Party meeting was going on at the conference hall. Mr. Suresh reportedly warned Mr. Patil asking him to stop talk on the subject of Chief Minister's term.

Though Mr. Patil invited Mr. Suresh to his chamber to talk things over, the latter rejected the offer and went alone, sources claimed.

**Both downplay differences**

However, Mr. Patil denied and said, "Neither did he warn me nor did I warn him. Our relations are good and all is well between us." Mr. Suresh too downplayed the issue and said nothing had happened. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar also told the media that "there is no fight and all is well in the party."

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|---|---|---|---|
| | | From | To |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| | b) Tender reference | NIT_TANFINET_015_LMC_SI |
| | c) Place of Execution | Tamil Nadu |
| 3 | Tender Document available place, cost for obtaining tender | www.tntenders.gov.in in the e-Tender portal. 25.05.2023 11:00 AM. |
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| 5 | Pre-Bid meeting | 07.06.2023, 03:00 PM, as per the tender document |
| 6 | Bid submission start date and time | 19.06.2023, 10:00 AM, as per the tender document |
| 7 | Due date, time, and place for submission of tender | 26.06.2023, 04:00 PM, as per the tender document |
| 8 | Place, Date and Time of tender opening | 26.06.2023, 05:00 PM, as per the tender document |

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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Ganesh Varatharajan
25.05.2022
You left us all a year ago to unite with Iswara's lotus feet, leaving behind an unfathomable void & vaccuum. But your love, warmth & sagacity is lingering as fresh as the morning dew & fragrant as the rose. Your deep wisdom, thick bonding and lofty values has touched every corner of our life. Every family function, VFSC gathering, IPL match, Illayaraja melody, Vadivelu jokes, weekly chanting, friend's events remind us of you. You are forever entrenched in our hearts, & guiding us as the Pole Star
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S.HARIDASS
DOB:09-08-1934 DOD: 25-05-2011
Remembering
Every moment in silent grief
Dearly missed by Sons
Daughter, son in law, Daughter in law and Loving Grand children
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In fond memory

Prof. S. Krishnamurthi
1985
Ratnadevi
2012
Always remembered for their love & blessings
By their Son & Family

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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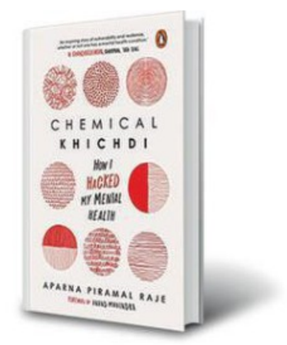


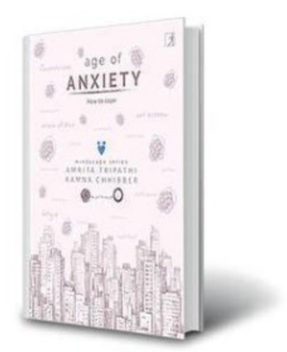


# Mental health awareness month: how to cope in the age of anxiety

All over the world, mental health needs are high but responses are still inadequate. Here we trace the work of writers and psychologists who have tried to explore the relationship between diagnosis and treatment

**Soma Basu**

People have become increasingly conscious of their physical well-being but mental health matters remain ignored. Even though the subject is often flagged, open discussions are still a largely uncharted territory. One way to fight the taboo is to perhaps read up more because awareness and information are the key to learning, understanding and accepting the nuances of mental health management.

The good thing is that there are research-based books available on mental health that can be a useful way to process one's own experiences, learn about psychology, and find techniques that could help in day-to-day life. Besides, there are several books by authors who have faced hurdles in dealing with the issue and reading about their experiences, recollections and descriptions can be a cathartic experience.

### Balancing act

The concept of mental health is supposed to have first appeared in English in 1843, in a book titled *Mental Hygiene*. The origin of mental hygiene awareness is, however, attributed to American author Clifford Whittingham Beers, who published his autobiography *A Mind That Found Itself* in 1908, based on his personal experience of admissions to three mental hospitals. The book had repercussions as the concern purportedly shifted from the improvement of the care of people with mental disorders to humanising the care of the mentally ill – to eradicate the abuses, brutalities and neglect from which they traditionally suffered.

The issue, however, continues to be a major concern of people interested in the promotion of mental health around the world in present times as well. Johann Hari, on the basis of scientific evidence, speaks of nine societal and environmental causes that lead to depression and anxiety in *Lost Connections* (2018). Inequality, political and economic instability, poverty, abuse, job loss, lack of meaning, according to him, are big reasons for mental health issues and come in the way of getting care.

In 2020, psychologist Kimberley Wilson put together a science-based compilation with the brain at the centre of health conversations. *For How to Build a Healthy Brain*, she extensively drew from research and offered practical and holistic advice on protecting brain health by making simple lifestyle choices and how sleep, nutrition, exercise and meditation are an absolutely critical part of everybody's wellness journey.

The author believes the way we think about mental health – as separate from physical health – is flawed and demystifies theories to put forth a comprehensive approach to balance body and mind care.

### The role of therapy

There are several non-fiction books about mental health by Indian authors that give a glimpse into the lives of those affected and how they confronted fears to take control of situations. These books are a great place to start. In *Beyond the Blue: Love, Life and Autism*, Gopika Kapoor talks about her experiences when her child was diagnosed with the condition at age 3.

She published the book in 2020 when her son started showing signs of independence at 15. In a raw and honest account, the author dwells on the role of therapy and its importance for a child living with autism and for the parents and siblings. She says how parents can be and are the first therapists in a less structured way but often miss the bus. The lack of autism intervention training programmes in the country propelled her to write a positive book on dealing with the condition and also on looking after the mental health of caregivers who are constantly worried about their children.

The suicide rate is high in India. Businesswoman Aparna Piramal Raje was severely depressed in her 20s and 30s even though she had a supportive and loving family and was well-educated. "I felt like a failure. It was language that saved me because I could write poetry about my state of mind and share it with a close friend," she says in her book *Chemical Khichdi: How I Hacked My Mental Health*. The mother of two discusses her two-decade battle with mental health – how she struggled and eventually overcame it. Her book, published last year, shows a pathway for anyone managing a mental health condition.

### Anxiety and stress

It is not easy to differentiate between anxiety and stress. Mumbai-based clinical psychologist Sonali Gupta offers empathetic guidance to identify anxiety as a mental health crisis and how it is triggered at work, in relationships and by social media.

Her book *Anxiety: Overcome it and Live without Fear* (2020) highlights multiple case studies.

Sheryl Paul's *The Wisdom of Anxiety: How Worry and Intrusive Thoughts Are Gifts to Help You Heal* published in 2019, emphasises that anxiety, like any emotion, is a signal to heal and renew our trust in our choices, self-image and core values.

Another book, *Age of Anxiety: How to Cope* (2021) by Amrita Tripathi and Kamna Chhibber, also explains how to distinguish between anxiety as "an attack of the nerves" or something that will come and go, and anxiety as a disorder, which will need treatment. The conversations are pertinent in the backdrop of the pandemic and prolonged periods of social isolation. She shares the journey of people with anxiety disorders to healing, explaining what helped them along the way.

When mental health is understood and discussed in an evolved way it can re-frame the narrative and create space for the right care with sensitivity. But often, there's a staggering silence around mental health issues, making it worse for those who suffer and their caregivers.

A 2009 study at the University of Sussex found that reading can reduce stress by up to 68%. Books on mental health are support systems that proffer advice to those interested in learning.

*Disclaimer: Reading is not a substitute for getting professional help.*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

## Microsoft is one of the most prolific tech companies in the world. Here is a quiz on the corporation, its products and the various personalities associated with it

**Venkataraghavan Srinivasan**

**QUESTION 1**
What was the first product that Microsoft ever sold?

**QUESTION 2**
What is the name of Microsoft's virtual assistant?

**QUESTION 3**
Who is the current CEO of Microsoft?

**QUESTION 4**
What is the name of the Microsoft program that is providing free software to schools and libraries in developing countries?

**QUESTION 5**
When Windows 95 was launched, Bill Gates danced to a hit song of the Rolling Stones. What was the song?

**QUESTION 6**
Who was the CEO of Microsoft from 2000 to 2014, his role being that of a key player in the company's growth during the 1990s and early 2000s?

Microsoft®

**Visual question:**
This was the longest-used Microsoft logo and was created in the late 1980s. What was the 'nick name' for this logo?

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**
1. The International Morse code encodes the 26 basic Latin letters and this. **Ans: One accented Latin letter (é), the Arabic numerals, and a small set of punctuation and procedural signals.**
2. The way in which the transmission rate of Morse Code is specified. **Ans: Groups per minute/Words per minute**
3. The other name of the small set of punctuations used in Morse Code as standardized sequences of short and long "dots" and "dashes". **Ans: Dits and Dahs**
4. The first public message that Morse sent in Morse Code was used on this telegraph line. **Ans: Baltimore-Washington telegraph line**
5. The English word formed from 'iddy-umpty'. **Ans: Umpteen**
6. The final message via Morse by the French Navy. **Ans: "Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence."**
7. The two standard words helpful to measure operator transmission speed. **Ans: Paris, Codex**
Visual: This is a very common code used in the Morse language. **Ans: It's the Morse code distress signal, SOS**
**Early Birds:** K. N. Viswanathan| Sakshee Singh| Vaibhav Jain| Sunil Kannada

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## *Know your English*

**K. Subrahmanian**

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Sir, Mr. G. Kalai Amudhan, Technical Assistant, Madras Fertilizers, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'Catch-22 situation'."

"A Catch-22 situation is a paradoxical situation. It is like this. You cannot do something unless you do another thing and you cannot do the second unless you do the first.

*He cannot marry till he is cured of his insanity. He can't be cured of his insanity unless he marries.*

*You cannot get a job unless you have some experience and you can't have the necessary experience unless you get a job.*

These are Catch-22 situations."

"What is the origin of the expression, sir?"

"*Catch-22* is a novel by Joseph Heller, an American novelist. The novel was published in 1961. Catch-22 is the name given in this novel to a paradoxical Air Force rule applied to pilots. Clear?"

"Yes sir. Sir, Ms. K. Jayashree wants to know the meaning of the idioms 'bell, book and candle' and 'hook, line and sinker'."

" 'A bell, a book and a candle' were used to expel a person from the Roman Catholic church. Before announcing the excommunication of a person, the Bishop would close the book, throw the candle to the ground to put it out and toll the bell as if the person concerned had died. There is a lot of symbolism in this. But we needn't go into it. Now the idiom means excessive or solemn ritual.

*He damned it all with bell, book and candle.*

This is used informally."

"'Hook, line and sinker' means 'completely'.

*He swallowed the tale hook, line and sinker.*

It means that he behaved like a fish which swallows not only the baited hook but also the lead weight and line. A fish-hook is a curved piece of metal to catch fish. A fishing-line is a strong thread used with a rod to catch fish. A sinker is a weight attached to a fishing-line to keep it under the water. A person who believes everything is like a fish which swallows 'hook, line and sinker'. What's the next question?"

"Sir, Mr. T. Santosh Kumar wants to know the origin of the word 'sandwich'."

"A sandwich is two slices of bread with jam, cheese, meat, etc. between the two slices.

*I will prepare some tomato sandwiches.*

'Sandwich' can also be used as a 'verb'.

*I was sandwiched between two stout men.*

'Sandwich' is named after John Montague, the fourth Earl of Sandwich who whiled away his time gambling. He lived between 1718-1792. He used to ask his servant to give him two slices of bread with a piece of meat in between so that he could eat without any interruption to his gambling. This is the origin of the word 'sandwich'. The 'a' in the word is pronounced like the 'a' in 'band' and 'wich' rhymes with 'bridge'. The 'd' in the word is silent. Let's stop here. Have a nice weekend."

*Published in The Hindu on February 9, 1988*

## Word of the day

**Splay:**
spread open or apart; move out of position; turned outward in an ungainly manner

Synonyms: spread out, turn out, rotate, slip, dislocate, luxate

Usage: *He splayed his huge hands over the table.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/splaypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /spleɪ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Ramakrishna College, Bunts Hostel Circle, Mangaluru

**Jayanagar**
**3rd June 2023**
**NMKRV Shashwathi Auditorium**
22nd cross, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru

**Davanagere**
**4th June 2023**
**GM Institute of Technology**
Auditorium Hall, Post Box No. 4, P.B Road, Davanagere

**Bidar**
**4th June 2023**
**Sri Poojya Channabasava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir**
Near district Stadium, Bidar

**Malleswaram**
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# Former Minister murder case: CBI slams Telangana HC's bail order

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**Agency tells SC that the order 'to cancel and then grant bail' to Gangi Reddy is an 'eighth marvel' in bail jurisprudence**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday slammed an order of the Telangana High Court, which cancelled and then granted bail to Yerra Gangi Reddy, the main accused in the murder of former Andhra Pradesh Minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

The order is being challenged in the Supreme Court.

"This order is sort of an eighth marvel in bail jurisprudence. We have never heard of something like this. An order that cancels bail, but also allows the bail. The High Court order is inherently contradictory," Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the CBI, told a Vacation Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Pankaj Mithal.

In April, the High Court had directed Yerra Gangi Reddy to surrender before the CBI on May 5. However, the same order also directed that he should be released on bail on July 1.

The High Court had reasoned that since the Supreme Court had given the CBI time till June 30 to complete its investigation into the murder case, there was no point denying Yerra Gangi Reddy his liberty beyond that point of time.

"In the last portion of its order in April, the High Court actually says that the Special Judge in Hyderabad to enlarge the accused on bail on his executing a personal bond... All this, after having cancelled his bail," Justice Narasimha exclaimed.

"That last portion annihilates the whole order. It is like a Frankenstein," Mr. Jain agreed.

Yerra Gangi Reddy's lawyer submitted that his client had got default bail from a local court way back in 2019.

"He had since then appeared before the police whenever he was called, like a hundred times... The case was then transferred to the CBI," the counsel argued.

"We will pass a balanced order. We will not deprive him of any freedom that he may have to file a bail application. He can seek regular bail ... Only thing is after cancelling the bail giving so many reasons, the High Court had in the last portion of its order allowed the bail... That has to be looked into," the court addressed the lawyers on both sides.

The Bench posted the case for May 25.

# Conclave recommends use of anti-drone technology atop Tirumala Hills

Quick reaction teams will guard the Lord Venkateswara temple round the clock, says official

**The Hindu Bureau**
TIRUMALA

It has been proposed to form seven committees headed by an SP or ASP-rank officer to study the security at the grassroots level on Tirumala and submit a report within a fortnight.

The two-day security audit convened to discuss and enhance the security arrangements atop the Tirumala hills concluded here on May 24 (Wednesday).

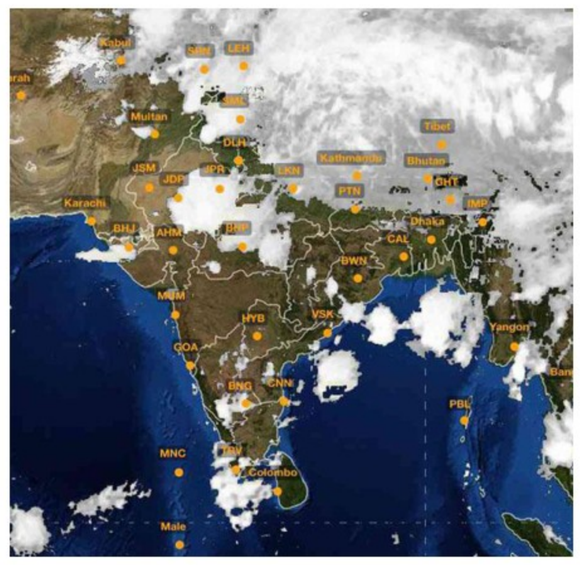
Principal Secretary (Home) Harish Gupta, who presided over the conclave, told the media that it had been resolved to recommend the use of anti-drone technology in Tirumala and set up a state-of-the-art cybersecurity system.

Quick reaction teams armed with sophisticated weapons will guard the main temple round the clock.

As a part of the move to modernise the existing security apparatus, it has also been proposed to constitute seven committees that will be headed by an SP or ASP-rank officer to study the conditions at the grassroots level and submit a detailed report within a fortnight which will be forwarded to the State government. In addition to this, the teams will also explore the feasibility of setting up of an emergency alarm system in Tirumala, said Mr. Gupta.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | 20 | 31.4 | 21.6 | Kozhikode | — | 36.0 | 27.6 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 43.2 | 28.0 | Kurnool | — | 41.8 | 28.8 |
| Aizawl | 2 | 26.7 | 18.2 | Lucknow | — | 38.2 | 26.8 |
| Allahabad | — | 40.5 | 27.6 | Madurai | — | 38.8 | 25.8 |
| Bengaluru | 25.8 | 32.0 | 20.2 | Mangaluru | — | 35.2 | 23.5 |
| Bhopal | — | — | 26.0 | Mumbai | — | 34.1 | 27.8 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 42.8 | 27.6 | Mysuru | — | — | — |
| Chandigarh | 2 | 34.2 | 23.7 | New Delhi | — | 34.7 | 25.4 |
| Chennai | — | 40.6 | 28.5 | Patna | 1 | 37.1 | 22.9 |
| Coimbatore | 0.5 | 36.6 | 25.2 | Port Blair | 7 | 33.5 | 25.7 |
| Dehradun | 15 | 33.6 | 20.6 | Puducherry | — | 37.4 | 27.7 |
| Gangtok | 2 | 23.4 | 15.5 | Pune | — | 38.7 | 23.7 |
| Goa | — | 34.4 | 24.8 | Raipur | — | 43.0 | 29.3 |
| Guwahati | — | 32.0 | 22.2 | Ranchi | — | 38.8 | 22.6 |
| Hubballi | — | 36.0 | 23.0 | Shillong | 23 | 20.7 | 15.6 |
| Hyderabad | — | 39.0 | 26.2 | Shimla | 6 | 24.0 | 13.2 |
| Imphal | — | 28.1 | 20.7 | Srinagar | 7 | 18.4 | 13.5 |
| Jaipur | — | 36.0 | 29.4 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 33.5 | 25.3 |
| Kochi | — | 32.8 | 26.6 | Tiruchi | — | 39.1 | 27.0 |
| Kohima | — | 24.5 | 17.3 | Vijayawada | — | 40.2 | 28.6 |
| Kolkata | 2 | 33.6 | 23.2 | Visakhapatnam | — | 33.5 | 29.0 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .18 | .46 | .80 | 55 | 116 | |
| Bengaluru | .26 | .11 | 100 | 60 | 71 | |
| Chennai | .4 | .84 | 119 | 81 | 70 | |
| Delhi | .8 | .28 | .56 | 221 | 117 | |
| Hyderabad | .6 | .20 | .29 | 85 | 105 | |
| Kolkata | .28 | .16 | .29 | 37 | 41 | |
| Lucknow | .9 | .11 | .37 | 123 | 212 | |
| Mumbai | .75 | .28 | .54 | 22 | 74 | |
| Pune | 114 | 158 | 115 | 117 | 97 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .16 | .48 | .14 | 82 | 108 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 269 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Kerala Cabinet approves 30% rise in Plus One seats in seven districts

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The number of Plus One higher secondary seats in Kerala has been increased by 62,775 seats to touch 4,23,315. This follows Cabinet approval for marginal increase of up to 30% in Plus One seats in seven districts on Wednesday.

Eighty-one temporary batches sanctioned last year for the single-window admission will continue in the 2023-24 academic year.

Nod has been given for continuing 81 batches, including 18 Science batches, 49 Humanities batches, and eight Commerce batches retained in the 2022-23 academic year. Two temporarily sanctioned Science batches, one each Commerce and Humanities batch that were temporarily shifted, and one Commerce and Humanities temporary batch allotted to KKN Pariyaram Smaraka, Kannur, are included in this.

The initial number of Plus One seats across government, aided, and unaided sectors in the State was 3.6 lakh.

A marginal seat increase of 30% has been allowed in government higher secondary schools in seven districts – Thiruvananthapuram and the northern districts of Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur, and Kasaragod. Aided higher secondary schools in these districts will get a marginal seat increase of 20%.

Government and aided schools in Kollam, Ernakulam, and Thrissur will get a marginal increase of 20%.

# Money spent on education will not lead to bankruptcy, says A.P. CM

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOVVUR

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday asserted that "human capital investment, including ₹14,912 crore spent on education over the past four years," would not lead to bankruptcy of the State.

Mr. Reddy was addressing the students at a roadshow here after releasing ₹703 crore towards reimbursement of college fee of the 9.95 lakh students for January to March under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena scheme, at Kovvur in East Godavari district.

"The Budget being spent on education should be seen as human capital investment, which changes the fate of the future of Andhra Pradesh. Such investment will not lead to bankruptcy, but will help equip the State with skilled manpower," Mr. Reddy said.

"We have realised that education is the only way to bring the poor out of the clutches of poverty and guarantees social and financial stability. Our four-year journey has been on this path, which believes that higher education is the right of every household in the State," he said.

Referring to the enrolment rate in higher education, Mr. Reddy said, "In 2018-19, more than 81,000 people had dropped out after Intermediate. The number reduced to 22,387 by 2022-23"

Mr. Reddy assured that the State would reimburse the complete course fee for those who pursue higher studies abroad.

# Kerala poll officials start preparations for 2024 LS polls

**Tiki Rajwi**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Training activities are set to begin soon for election officials in Kerala as part of preparing the ground for the smooth conduct of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

A decision has been finalised to create a pool of State-level and district-level master trainers as part of equipping election officials with the requisite know-how on a range of poll-related topics.

**Training activities**

An updated Election Planner issued by the Election Commission of India (EC) requires training activities to be carried out well in advance.

On the basis of a direction issued by the EC to Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) of States, 26 government officials have been nominated as State-level master trainers.

These State-level master trainers will be trained by the EC at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management, New Delhi, a senior election official said.

The State-level master trainers would impart training to district-level trainers, who, in turn, would coach Assembly constituency-level trainers, according to a May 15 order issued by the Election Department in connection with the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

***Missed deadline***

**Demands action:** A view of the Outer Ring Road in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Telangana Congress president A. Revanth Reddy has claimed that the company that was given a lease of the road for 30 years has failed to pay the 10% amount within the stipulated time, and demanded that State government cancel the tender. NAGARA GOPAL

# 12 pilgrims injured in Tirumala ghat road accident

**The Hindu Bureau**
TIRUMALA

Twelve pilgrims sustained minor injuries when the electric bus in which they were travelling met with an accident on the second ghat road leading to Tirupati on Wednesday.

The steering wheel of the bus got locked at the 28th curve on the ghat road and the vehicle hit the crash barriers. All the injured were rushed to the TTD-run BIRRD hospital.

TTD Executive Officer A.V. Dharma Reddy rushed to the spot and supervised the rescue operations. He ordered free transportation of the pilgrims to their native places. He ordered an inquiry into the accident.

# Letter to Chief Minister on college asking students to watch *The Kerala Story*

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

A group of over 25 intellectuals have written a letter to the Chief Minister condemning a college in Ilkal in Bagalkot district mandating its students to watch the film, *The Kerala Story*.

In their letter, members of Jagruta Nagarikaru-Karnataka have strongly condemned the circular issued by Keshav C. Das, principal of Sri Vijay Mahantesh Ayurvedic Medical College in Ilkal, that said that every BAMS and post-graduate student should watch the film.

"This is unacceptable. What is the need for the compulsory and free screening of a controversial film that is based on false narratives and that is aimed at creating hatred and dividing society? There is no doubt that such efforts are aimed at fanning communal passions," the members said.

When the film was questioned in court by some people saying that it was a propaganda movie, the film-makers said that it was a work of fiction and that it is not based on actual events. They have even agreed to carry a disclaimer that it was not based on any actual events. However, from the narratives that the film creates, it is clear that the intention behind the movie is propaganda, they said.

"Though we agree that banning films is not a solution, we ask how right it is to organise free screening of films that promote violence against certain groups and make it mandatory," they said.

# Literacy project helps migrant workers overcome language barrier in Kerala

**Mini Muringatheri**
THRISSUR

"Malayalam examination was easy. I wrote it well." Everyone congratulated and clapped, when Sufikul Islam Mandal of West Bengal said this in a chaste Malayalam.

He was one of the migrant workers who wrote the Changathi literacy examination organised by the Literacy Mission at Kolazhy in Thrissur recently. In all, 92 labourers working in and around Kolazhy attended the examination. Mr. Mandal, 51, was the seniormost student.

Migrant workers writing the Changathi literacy examination in Malayalam conducted by the Literacy Mission in Thrissur district.

The Changathi project has been envisaged for teaching migrant labourers to read and write Malayalam and Hindi.

"Though migrant labourers have become an inevitable part of many sectors in the State, they still face exclusion. The Kerala Literacy Mission introduced the programme as a solution for this," said district coordinator of the Literacy Mission Saji Thomas.

Classes were arranged at the shelters of workers after their working time.

Examination was conducted based on 'Hamari Malayalam', a textbook specially prepared for the purpose.

The study material was prepared keeping in mind the working conditions of migrant workers. The book had chapters dealing with various topics, including hygiene, health, values, and rights of workers.

The pattern of questions included filling the gaps, choosing the right words, and reading Malayalam words.

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**Narendra Modi**
Prime Minister

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# Ties that bind

## The Modi visit to Australia adds to the bipartisan strength of growing bonds

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to Australia this week coincided with a year since Labour Party leader Anthony Albanese was elected Prime Minister, and gave a fillip to growing bipartisan ties. While his visit was originally planned for a multilateral event, the meeting of the Quad, it transformed into a purely bilateral visit after the U.S. President pulled out over domestic political constraints; Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida followed suit, and a shortened Quad Summit was held in Hiroshima. As a result, Mr. Modi's Sydney sojourn was much more in the spotlight, particularly his address to the Indian community which Mr. Albanese joined in, as well as the address to business groups. In what was their sixth such meeting in the past year, the announcements from the Modi-Albanese meet included opening an Australian consulate in Bengaluru and an Indian consulate in Brisbane, an agreement on Migration and Mobility, and the finalisation of terms of reference for an India-Australia Green Hydrogen Task Force. Defence and security ties, cooperation on renewable energy, and critical minerals were also part of the substantive agenda, as was the need to sign a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement by December. On international issues, despite their differing stances on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and western sanctions, they found continuing and common cause on maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific, and dealing with an aggressive China.

However, it was the celebration as well as the concerns of the Indian-origin community that appeared to overshadow all else. While both leaders exulted in the mammoth crowd at Sydney's SuperDome, Mr. Modi said that the "real reason, the real power" behind the bilateral relations came from people of Indian-origin in Australia. On the subsequent morning, activities of other groups and conflicts also tracing back to people of Indian origin were discussed as Mr. Modi repeated his concerns over vandalism and attacks defacing community centres and temples with pro-Khalistani, anti-India and anti-Modi graffiti. These had been raised during Mr. Albanese's visit to India in March. While any attack on an Indian consulate is a valid bilateral concern, New Delhi must consider how much attention it wishes to pay to attacks by Australian citizens on Australian citizens and Australian property. While the growing incidents may be cause for worry, it is by no means clear that giving them centre-stage during such visits is conducive to strengthening the common understanding between both countries, or in the best interests of the "three D's" Mr. Modi said bind the two countries today – Democracy, Diaspora and *Dosti* [Friendship].

# Brinkmanship

## Republicans should not put partisan goals ahead of the greater public good

The U.S. is close to breaching its $31.4 trillion debt ceiling, the government-imposed limit on the total funds it can borrow to pay for existing legal obligations including interest on national debt, military salaries tax refunds and Medicare and Social Security. A breach, should it happen by the June 1 deadline, risks an economic debacle that could lead to a credit rating downgrade, with the knock-on effect of soaring interest rates and tanking stock markets. This in turn would have a deleterious impact on retirement and savings accounts, the pace of business activity, and therefore on employment. With the global economy limping out of the COVID-19 recession scenario, a U.S. federal government debt default would represent a shock to the financial system and a still-fragile recovery across many economies may be compromised. Matters could worsen if the U.S. federal government goes into its 22nd shutdown and government employees are furloughed. In an attempt to coax lawmakers into cooperation and hammer out an agreement to raise or suspend the debt ceiling, the White House put out its calculations of the damage that would result: 8.3 million jobs lost, 6.1% drop in annualised growth of real GDP, and unemployment at 5%.

At the heart of this fiscal quagmire is a lack of bipartisan consensus on how to avoid repeating cycles of national economic stress stemming from the debt ceiling itself. Some analysts observe that the ceiling is a useful device for the U.S. government to tie its own hands and submit to a credible commitment to limit public spending, especially as it requires legislative consent, and with it, some congressional oversight authority. Others argue that the ceiling is an "antiquated mechanism" that places unwarranted restrictions on robust fiscal policy, including on the need to meet previously legislated fiscal obligations. Either way, the deeper reason to worry about the debt ceiling bringing the economy to the "precipice of default every few years" is that the ceiling readily serves as a political tool for the party not in control of the White House to gain leverage over the fiscal priorities of the administration and hobble its plan to deliver on campaign promises. A major debt payment is due on June 15. The government could make do with the ever-shrinking fiscal wiggle room until then. However, House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican, would be wise to realise that putting partisan goals and personal popularity ahead of the greater good will not be something that the American middle class will forgive easily in the 2024 presidential election, especially if this brinkmanship ends up causing a painfully intractable economic crisis.

# After Karnataka, more lessons for the BJP

**Shashi Tharoor**

is a third-term Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, a former United Nations Under Secretary-General and former Minister of State. He is the award-winning author of 24 books

The Congress party's overwhelming victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections has put paid for now to the grumbling that followed its earlier resounding defeats in three State Assembly elections in the Northeast, in Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland. Those setbacks had again got the doomsayers prophesying the fading away of the party. It is not only clear that such obituaries were woefully premature, but that there is no obvious challenger to the Congress as the principal Opposition party in the country, and the only one with a national footprint to rival the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

### The campaigns, the results

The results of the Assembly elections in Karnataka were even better than most supporters of the Congress had dared hope – 135 seats and over 42% of the vote share is the party's best-ever victory this century, in a State which had twice returned BJP governments in the last decade. The Congress's strong campaign on the ground focused on local issues, of governance, development and social justice, including the demands of the lower castes for a fair share of the pie. The "five guarantees" issued by the party were specific, targeted and practical and focused on real answers to public discontent with unemployment, inflation and unemployment. It was easy to point to the contrast between the "40% commission government" of the BJP, versus the "100% commitment" that the Congress offered. The party also benefited from the popularity of its State leadership, especially (but not only) that of the former (and now reappointed) Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his new Deputy, State Congress chief D.K. Shivakumar. The party's national leadership, especially party President Mallikarjun Kharge and the Gandhi siblings, played a constructive and hugely effective role, supportive of State leaders rather than being dominant. On the whole, most political observers agree that Congress ticked all the right boxes.

On the other hand, the BJP did not. The BJP's stint in power in Karnataka had been lacklustre and marked by both corruption and non-performance, which fuelled a growing desire for change among voters. The BJP government had been criticised for its handling of several issues, including the economy, education, and health care. It had no real answers to the evident anti-incumbency sentiment that was widespread throughout the State. Its now-customary politics of centralisation failed; the BJP's Delhi-based top-down campaign, directed in the names of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, both of whom dominated the party's outreach, had no answers to the Congress's strong local leadership on the ground in Karnataka, which prevailed over the outsiders and their "national" themes. The BJP, as usual, touted the benefits of a "double-engine *sarkara*", with the same party in power in Delhi and Bengaluru. The public, having seen the misfiring of the two engines, preferred to trust the Congress alternative.

There was clearly also, mercifully, a failure of the politics of polarisation. The *halal*, hijab, "love jihad" and "land jihad" Hindutva messaging, seeking to promote a divide in the State between Hindus and Muslims, did not work against the promise of effective performance and local issues directly affecting the interests of the ordinary voter. The risible attempts to demonise Tipu Sultan, and to invent two Vokkaliga assassins who were supposed to have killed him (without a shred of historical evidence to support such a ridiculous assertion), showed a party stuck in the past, when the voters were concerned about the present.

Worse, the BJP has thrived in northern India by railing against the injustices and humiliations of history, which shows little awareness of the very different history of the South. Aspirational voters need leaders who promise them a better future rather than obsessing about taking revenge on the past.

### The polls ahead

Much has been made by some commentators of the fact that the BJP's vote share did not in fact drop below the 36% it had claimed last time. The implication is that the Congress's gains came largely at the expense of the Janata Dal (Secular), which with 19 seats has been reduced to irrelevance after having twice enjoyed the Chief Ministership because of its role as the "swing" party that could push one of the national parties into power. It would be unwise for the BJP to take refuge in such calculations. Mathematics cannot explain the overwhelming repudiation of the BJP government; nor does it compensate for the evident lack of chemistry between the BJP's anointed local leadership and the electorate.

This has sobering implications for the BJP in the five State elections that remain this year, and even more so in the general election scheduled for 2024. The Indian voter is tired of rhetoric and weary of the media saturation of the BJP's messaging. She wants tangible benefits in her daily life; not unaffordable cooking gas cylinders, prices beyond her reach at the local market and unemployed sons hanging about the home. It was no accident that women voters overwhelmingly preferred the Congress to the BJP in Karnataka, by a 11% difference. After 10 years of Moditva, will they not hanker after change again in Delhi, as they did in Karnataka?

In Karnataka, the BJP's electoral formula looked tired. The party's tried and tested appeals in the last decade have combined Hindutva messaging, the language of communal polarisation, and cynical social engineering, with an emphasis on welfare schemes for which the voters are supposed to be grateful. But Indian politics is like a bank which only runs current accounts; the earlier achievements disappear into fixed deposits that are taken for granted and no longer figure in the calculations of voters, who are principally concerned about their present conditions and immediate prospects. In these circumstances, the BJP needs something new to offer. In 2019 it had Pulwama and Balakot. What does it have in store for 2024?

The other paradox is the reverse of the cliché "nothing succeeds like success". The BJP was too successful in 2019 for its own good. It had results in several States that it cannot possibly hope to replicate in 2024 – it won every seat in Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan; it won all but one seat in Bihar, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; it recorded best-ever performances in Bengal and Maharashtra. The political scenario in each of these States suggests that the BJP will, at best, drop to between 220 and 250 seats in the Lok Sabha unless it is able to make inroads in areas where it did less well in 2019. But there are not too many possibilities for upward growth in the areas where it is already strong.

### A word of advice

The Karnataka results oblige the BJP to ask itself a searching question: what does it hope to offer India's voters next time around? Doubling down on Hindutva offers limited rewards since it has probably touched the ceiling of the votes it can win through polarisation. Surely, the best chance for Mr. Modi lies in a return to the 2014 formula of development and economic growth, bolstered by advances in the technological "India stack" that have been winning global admiration. When a Pakistani video-blogger gushes about Indian *chaiwallahs* with PayTM QR codes on their carts, or bankers rave about the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a payment system that is superior to the internationally-dominant SWIFT, the BJP can point to achievements that have nothing to do with the toxin of communalism it has injected into the veins of our society. That is a more credible message to seek re-election on than history or hatred. But it may be too much to hope for.

The Karnataka results oblige the ruling party to ask itself a searching question: what does it hope to offer India's voters next time around?

# A 'middle kingdom' dawns on India's west

**Mahesh Sachdev**

a retired Indian Ambassador and Arabist, is President of Eco-Diplomacy and Strategies, a Delhi-based consultancy

The 32nd Arab League Summit held in Jeddah was unique in multiple ways. After 12 years, all 22 Arab states got together again, with 17 of them represented at the head of state or government level. The summit readmitted Syria and heard the Ukrainian President, a special invitee. The post-summit "Jeddah Declaration" was moderate in political optics and showed realism for the contemporary socio-economic challenges facing the Arabs. Although it highlighted the staple pro-Palestinian agenda, it conspicuously refrained from mentioning Israel by name. Similarly, all Iran-related issues were omitted. Instead, it called for "stopping foreign interference in the domestic affairs of Arab countries and categorically reject all support for the formation of armed groups and militias". There was no mention of any non-Arab issue, including Ukraine and the oil market.

### The Saudi angle

These subtle nuances would hint at the emergence of Saudi Arabia under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as the main arbiter of the Arab world's agenda for the foreseeable future. During the months of the run-up to this summit, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman took several steps to declutter the Kingdom's regional agenda: he held triple summits in Riyadh with the Chinese President.

Relations with Iran were normalised, aiming to end nearly 45 years of hostility and geo-religious rivalry. This reduced the friction among their respective proxies in conflict such as Yemen, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. In particular, it has raised hopes of putting an end to the civil war in Yemen, the Kingdom's "Vietnam" since 2015. On the other hand, ties with the United States have been stabilised.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, 37, has adroitly chalked out a middle path to take the Arab world's leadership, currently in a vacuum. Egypt, the usual pretender for Arab leadership, is in a precarious economic state as the Kingdom has curtailed its assistance, demanding greater financial accountability. Syria and Iraq are still battling their internal demons and Iranian interference.

By reconciling with Iran through Chinese mediation, but without a U.S. nod-and-wink, Riyadh has asserted its diplomatic autonomy. The move seriously undermined Washington's attempt to demonise Tehran and its nuclear programme and put into question the rationale of its economic sanctions regime. Direct ties with Iran have also reduced the importance of Qatar, Iraq, Oman and Pakistan as intermediaries.

Further, by re-engaging Hamas ruling Gaza, the Kingdom has sought to replace Qatar and Iran as the main benefactor. This should help deradicalise the Palestinians. The Kingdom's instinctive animosity with Israel has been replaced by ambiguity as Riyadh is in no hurry to join the Abraham Accords. In recent weeks, Jeddah has become the venue for peace talks among warring factions in Sudan.

### Riyadh's advantage

In this ongoing quest for Arab supremacy, Saudi Arabia has the advantage of its economic heft: in 2022, its GDP grew by 8.7% to reach $1,108 billion, more than twice as large as the second-placed United Arab Emirates (UAE). Already the world's largest oil exporter, Saudi oil income grew by 51% to reach a record $228 billion, giving it a sway over both the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+, much to the West's chagrin.

With the global oil market facing high volatility, only Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company, has adequate spare capacity. As the global economic turmoil raises the costs of post-crisis regional reconstruction, Riyadh is emerging as the first go-to destination.

However, the Kingdom's rapid ascendance to the pinnacle of the Arab world also faces several challenges. First, the Kingdom's foreign policy has been through several lurches since the Jamal Khashoggi episode in 2018 and greater maturity and consistency would be needed to make it more effective. Second, the various initiatives towards regional reconciliation have not yet become irreversible and could still unravel. Third, the Kingdom's ties with the UAE and Qatar are friction-prone and could exacerbate. Last but not least, while Saudi Arabia is internally stable, the likely anointment of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as the next Saudi king could be a disruptive and distractive development.

### India's stakes

India has well-known high stakes in the Arab world, particularly in the neighbouring West Asian region. We, therefore, need to acknowledge the importance of this incipient geo-political shift, watch the developments very carefully, realign our strategy accordingly and vigorously pursue our national interests. Although we enjoy cordial and substantive ties with Saudi Arabia, these are still below the potential and need periodic upgradation. To this end, we could consider several bilateral initiatives. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman should be re-invited for the India visit postponed last year; his likely presence at the forthcoming G-20 Summit in New Delhi can be leveraged bilaterally for this purpose. Separately, we should synergise the bilateral Strategic Partnership Council at various levels, leverage the potential for energy complementarity, work together more effectively to secure the region, enter a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, suggest India-Saudi partnership for building socio-economic infrastructure, both bilaterally and regionally, and raise our participation in various projects under the Kingdom's ambitious "Vision 2030".

With the emergence of Saudi Arabia as the main arbiter of the Arab world's agenda, India needs to realign its strategy

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**The ₹2,000 note saga**

I write this letter as a retired Director (Medical), Central Labour Institute, Mumbai. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised people to deposit ₹2,000 notes in banks. However, some banks are taking the opportunity and fishing in troubled waters by imposing cash handling charges even on deposits made with ₹2,000 notes — even after the RBI's announcement. This amounts to fleecing customers. Such actions are anti-people and add insult to injury.

**Dr. T.V. Ranga Rao,**
Hyderabad

While the RBI's decision to abolish the ₹2,000 (pink) note has not caused the chaos and uproar seen during the first demonetisation process, the underlying unease cannot be overlooked. The window of nearly four months time, allowing individuals to exchange the pink notes for smaller denominations may have some role in keeping tensions under control. Yet, the scramble for gold (yellow metal) is definite evidence of the volatility being generated by the second demonetisation process. Those who had accumulated a large quantity of pink notes appear to favour the yellow metal as their 'new parking lot'. The RBI's move will only support the propensity to keep the yellow metal secure.

**Dr. Vijaykumar H.K.,**
Raichur, Karnataka

**At Chepauk**

The emphatic victory by Chennai Super Kings, sealing their entry into their 10th Indian Premier League final, caps a memorable run for M.S. Dhoni ('Sport' page, "Riding the yellow wave, Super Kings enter 10th final", May 24). A win for CSK on Sunday will be a fitting tribute to '*thala*' Dhoni, who has marshalled his limited bowling resources admirably.

**Dr. Thomas Palocaren,**
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

The king of cool, MSD, marshalled the bowling and fielding by making timely changes. It was a team show as CSK's batsmen chipped in with runs and the bowlers shared the spoils. That CSK has entered the finals for the 10th time since the inaugural edition of IPL is astonishing. One hopes and wishes that MSD will lift the cup at Ahmedabad.

**K. Pradeep**
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

# The fundamental value of the rupee

Pulapre Balakrishnan is an economist

The first thing that comes to mind when speaking of the value of a currency is the exchange rate it commands in international transactions. For instance, we may ask how many cents is the rupee worth. Another is its purchasing power within an economy, i.e., whether it can buy the same basket of goods over time. Inflation erodes the value of a currency over time. But there is a more fundamental sense in which the value of a currency is to be understood, and it has nothing to do with prices. It has to do with the confidence that citizens have in its continued acceptance as a medium of exchange and store of value. This confidence is based on the trust that they repose in their monetary authority, which is the central bank.

**The RBI's reputation**

On May 19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the ₹2,000 note is being withdrawn from circulation but that it will remain legal tender. At the same time, it advised the public to hand over their ₹2,000 notes, to be exchanged for lower denomination notes, by September 30. This advice is pregnant with the suggestion that the note would cease to be legal tender after that date. The explanation for the move is that it is part of a 'Clean Note Policy'. This does not wash, for if the objective was to remove soiled notes from circulation, the existing ₹2,000 note should have been made convertible into a fresh note of the same denomination. Economists who align with the government of the day have rushed to support the RBI's latest move. One argument is that a note of such high denomination is used only by a miniscule section of the population. The other is that it will ensure that black money hoards will be extinguished. Actually, these arguments do not enhance the RBI's reputation. First, it should not have taken much for the RBI to recognise in 2016 that the ₹2,000 note, issued after notes of much lower denominations had been demonetised, was likely to be used by few people for the majority of transactions in India are of far lower monetary value. With hindsight, it is believable that at the time there were not enough new currency notes to be exchanged for the demonetised notes, i.e., there was an unconscionable lack of preparation. The government had likely wanted to demonstrate that it had restored the money stock quickly. The hardship that high denomination notes cause to a very large section of the population needing to transact in notes of much lower value seems not to have been considered. At the time of demonetisation, the official argument had been that it was a way to end counterfeit currency. We now know that this did not happen, as almost all the demonetised notes were returned to the banks. If now the government's economists say that black money hoards will be extinguished with the ₹2,000 note withdrawn, they must accept as folly the printing of these very notes immediately after the demonetisation in 2016. The Harvard Professor Kenneth Rogoff had lashed out at high denomination currency notes for their role in enabling illegal economic activity, money laundering and terrorism. The RBI, which mostly mimics economic ideas from the West, seems to have missed this one. If the chosen form for hoarding unaccounted wealth today was indeed the ₹2,000 note, then it can be said that the RBI facilitated its accumulation by issuing a higher denomination note in 2016.

The demonetisation of 2016 had led to a slowing of growth within half a year. It is unlikely that the withdrawal of the ₹2,000 note will result in anything similar, for it is still legal tender. But surely the uncertainty it gives rise to cannot be good for business. People undertake economic activity with a view to incurring a gain, whether in the form of profits or wages. When some part of the currency in circulation is suddenly withdrawn for no convincing reason, it has a dampening effect, for economic actors are kept guessing about the money value of their future earnings. India has witnessed a stagnant private investment rate for close to a decade. This could hardly have been a good moment to tamper with the currency.

**Poor judgment**

A central bank sits at the pinnacle of a country's financial system. The public expects of it the highest standard of probity. But apart from probity, the central bank must also convey competence, transparency and fairness. For over 50 years, the RBI had mostly lived up to this expectation. In particular, the public saw it as having transitioned from being a handmaiden to Britain's colonial interest in India to being a relatively independent central bank of an independent country with high economic ambitions. The demonetisation of 2016 dented this reputation. And now, within just a few years, the RBI has come up with another action of dubious worth. By undoing its own action of introducing the ₹2,000 note, it draws attention to poor judgment on its part.

In 2016, the government amended the RBI Act of 1933 to redefine monetary policy as the control of inflation. The RBI has not had great success in its new avatar. It has missed the targeted inflation rate of 4% for 14 quarters in a row. Its relentless messaging however gives the impression that it is singularly devoted to the task of controlling inflation. Perhaps it is. But by casting a shadow on the public's perception of what is legal tender in India it destabilises their confidence in the rupee. In *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde spoke of how the cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. We have been given proof of it.

By casting a shadow on the public's perception of what is legal tender, the RBI is destabilising confidence in the rupee

# Industrial investments: The Kerala story

The perception that Kerala is investment-unfriendly has faded over the years

STATE OF PLAY

M. Suresh Babu

The incongruence between Kerala's social and economic development has been a part of discourses on development trajectories. Until recently, the dominant narrative has been the inability of the State to provide a suitable investment climate, especially in the industrial sector. Kerala was often touted as a hostile investment destination with active trade unionism regularly supported by pro-labour policies. This perception seems to be fading away, as Kerala has been attracting investments in the industrial sector. A combination of right policies, institutional support and the ramping up of necessary infrastructure could mark the beginning of a new Kerala story – that of a State pursuing late industrialisation.

Analysis of data published by the Annual Survey of Industries for the period 2009-2019 reveals that Kerala has made strides in the growth of industrial factories and fixed investments. It registered a compound annual growth rate of 2.55% in the number of factories during this period, which is modest when compared with the all-India figure of 4.07% and Gujarat's growth rate of 5.64%. However, in comparison with other leading States in industrial performance, such as Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, which witnessed growth rates of 2.53% and 3.43% respectively, Kerala's growth is conspicuous. The State's performance in terms of fixed capital invested in these factories was spectacular during this period; Kerala registered a growth rate of 12.82%. This stands out in relation to the all-India growth rate of 7.33% and Tamil Nadu's and Karnataka's growth rates of 6.24% and 6.33% respectively. Even if we account for the base effect, with Kerala having low levels and other States having higher levels to start with, this growth in fixed capital is a clear indication that the State is slowly shedding its image of a hostile investment destination. It is important to note that investment flows were observed despite changes in political regimes. This is a sign of policy continuity and stability.




Kerala faces three major challenges in order to push industrialisation further. First, there is an imperative need to sustain investment flows. The State recently unveiled a new industrial policy highlighting major focus areas. These areas could become advantageous if the State swims along the current. However, if other States also follow the same route, the pool to woo investors will become larger, which could be disadvantageous for Kerala. There is little differentiation among the States in their approaches to attract investments. The most common one seems to follow the Centre's templates, such as Global Investor's Meet and Make in India. Kerala too announced a Make in Kerala project.

The second challenge is to have a right blend of traditional and modern industries, given the constraints of land and environmental conditions in the State. Traditional industries need to be preserved as they absorb labour. Modern industries generate higher value addition and open possibilities for entry into global value chains. But these might not be high employment-generating industries. Hence, a right balance is required as employment generation has to be accorded priority.

The third is the issue of physical infrastructure expansion. Kerala needs to find a balance between highly capital-intensive infrastructure and fragile environmental conditions. Given the State's fiscal situation, high borrowings for infrastructure investments would impose a debt burden, constraining funds for productive investments. Limitations imposed by urbanisation, forest cover and wildlife, and the possibility of natural calamities need close consideration while designing infrastructure for industrialisation.

A combination of policies is required to maintain and increase investments over time. In this endeavour, Kerala needs to guard against two possible deceptions. First, there could be a hangover from the image of being an unfriendly State for investors, which needs to be handled deftly. Second, there could shallow advice emanating from poor research conducted by public and private institutions. Such research needs to be empirically scrutinised before being considered. The fact that Kerala has been able to attract investments incrementally over time without much fanfare points to the relevance of a human development-based growth strategy.

*M. Suresh Babu is Professor of Economics at IIT Madras. Views are personal*

# Exports, imports shrink across many nations for most items

In April 2023, India's imports and exports contracted in double digits

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

India's exports and imports further weakened in April this year, in continuation of the declining trend that has been observed since June last year. Imports declined more than exports in April, narrowing the trade deficit. The decline in exports was widespread, affecting most of the major items. The decline in imports was also recorded across all major commodities. But more importantly, the fall in imports and exports was not limited to India. Many nations have recorded similar declines, pointing to a slowing global demand.

The 2022-23 Indian Economic Survey had warned that the "slowing global demand will weigh on India's merchandise exports." It had cited the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s forecast, which had said that global growth will slow down in 2022 and 2023. The latest IMF report (April 2023), estimates that global growth could slow to about 2.5% in 2023, in a "plausible alternative scenario." This scenario of the IMF assumes that the financial sector stress in the U.S. triggered by the sudden collapse of three regional banks is not contained. This, according to the IMF, would be the "weakest growth since the global downturn of 2001, barring the initial COVID-19 crisis in 2020 and the global financial crisis in 2008-09."

The Economic Survey's warning came true with the year-on-year trade growth starting to decelerate from the start of 2023 calendar year. **Chart 1** shows the y-o-y % change in India's merchandise exports and imports every month since January 2022. In April 2023, imports and exports shrank by 14.1% and 12.7% respectively.

The Economic Survey had also said that the "non-oil, non-gold imports, which are growth-sensitive, may not witness a significant slowdown as Indian growth continues to be resilient." However, as **Chart 2** shows, the decline in imports was seen across major commodities. The chart shows the y-o-y % change in imports of select commodities. The items listed formed 65% of India's import basket in FY23. Inbound shipments of fertilizers and gold, the two commodities whose imports fluctuate the most, shrank by over 40% in April, while vegetable oil imports were a close second with a 37.8% decline.

In parallel, the contraction of India's merchandise exports too has been broad-based. Along with petroleum products, the exports of engineering goods, gems and jewellery, chemicals, and ready-made garments and plastics contracted or grew at a slower pace in 2023 **(Chart 3)**. While exports of electronic goods continue to see growth, the 26.5% pace in April 2023 was the slowest in 15 months. The exports of rice and pharma products were the only bright spots amid the gloom. The chart shows the y-o-y % change in the exports of select commodities. The items listed formed 75% of India's import basket in FY23.

The recent decline in exports is a global phenomenon. The monthly economic review released in April by the Department of Economic affairs said that exports surged in FY22 due to pent up demand following the easing of COVID-19. But they became moderate in FY23 as the invasion of Ukraine and monetary tightening of global central banks meant that discretionary consumer spending plummeted in advanced nations.

Due to internal demand slowdown and external geopolitical tensions, both imports and exports of many developed and developing nations have been contracting in 2023. **Chart 4** shows the y-o-y % change in imports and exports of select countries for which the latest data was available. Across nations, both imports and exports declined in some or all the months of 2023.

## Trade blues

The data for the charts were sourced from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**Chart 1** | The chart shows the year-on-year change in India's exports and imports (in %)

**Chart 2** | The chart shows the y-o-y change in imports of major commodities (in %)

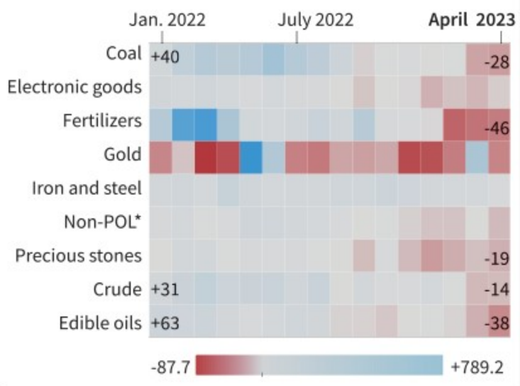



**Chart 3** | The chart shows the y-o-y change in exports of major commodities (in %)

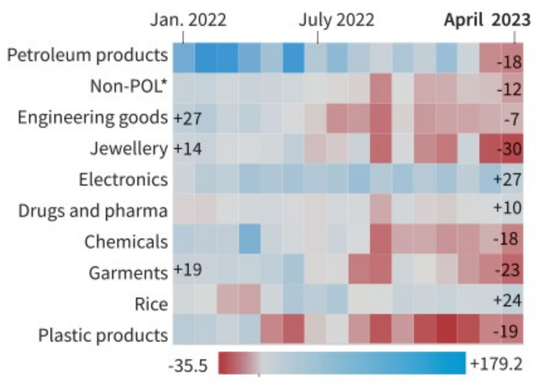
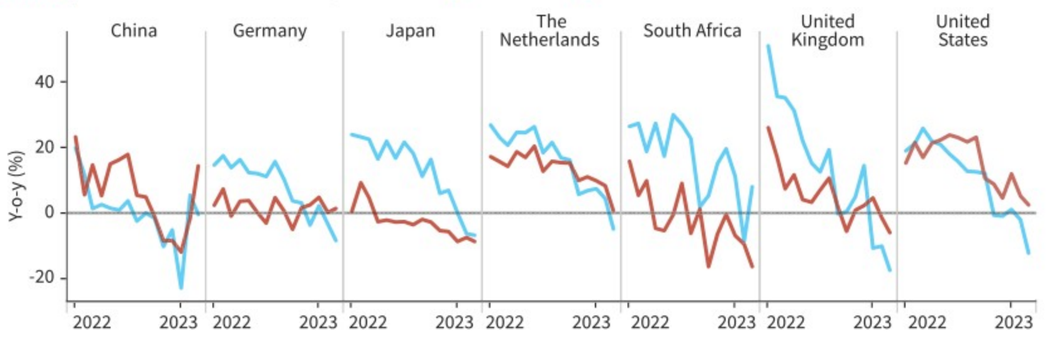



**Chart 4** | The chart shows the y-o-y change in imports (●) and exports (●) of select countries^ (in %)




*Non-Pol refers to non petroleum, oil and lubricant commodities | ^ Y-o-y change has been calculated on seasonally adjusted figures

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 25, 1973

## Pak. activity in Chicken Neck area

Jammu, May 24: Pakistan seems to be carrying on military preparations in the Chicken Neck area of the Kashmir front which was captured by India during the 1971 war and later returned under the Simla Agreement. Whereas pressmen yesterday saw on the Indian side the biggest seed farm of the Jammu and Kashmir Government, known as the Chinor Seed Farm, coming up and land to the last inch of the border cultivated, Pakistan has not even rehabilitated villages on the other side of the border along the Chinor farm sprawling along the Chicken Neck for about 16 km and about 40 km, west from here. There seems to be no civilian life but round-the-clock work on raising defence walls is clearly visible from this side. It is also clear that the Pakistan Government is not keen on rehabilitating these villages because the land is so fertile here that if it is not tilled for some time dense weeds and bushes will grow soon to clear which will be a herculean task just as it has happened on the Chinor side too which was not tilled since 1967. These reclamation operations had become necessary because this area lay across the river Chenab and Pakistani depredators taking shelter in the dense wild growth frequently made incursions on the Indian side.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 25, 1923

## Cure for leprosy

It has been known for some time past, writes the "Statesman" dated May 23, that great progress was being made in the treatment of leprosy, and a message from our London correspondent tells us this morning that the victory over this horrible disease is now assured. Addressing the Royal Institute of Public Health in London, Sir Leonard Rogers announced that the leprosy bacillus, which is microscopically indistinguishable from that of tuberculosis, can be destroyed by an injunction of oils (presumably chaulmoogra among others), and that there is reason to believe that in the course of a few years the disease may be completely stamped out. Calcutta may claim some share in the credit due to Sir Leonard Rogers for this signal contribution to the relief of human suffering, for the labours now brought to so welcome a conclusion were initiated, and for many years conducted, in the Schools of Tropical Medicine, in this city.

## From Page One

## 19 Opposition parties to boycott inauguration

The Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) was also approached by the Opposition bloc to join the boycott. However, according to sources, the party does not intend to sign the joint statement. "We are still discussing the issue and will take a decision tomorrow," BRS leader K. Keshav Rao said.

Mr. Modi will inaugurate the new building on Sunday. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will also be present at the function. The Opposition has argued that it is the President and not the Prime Minister who is the head of the Indian state, and also the head of Parliament.

Their statement quotes Article 79 of the Constitution which states, "There shall be a Parliament for the Union which shall consist of the President and two Houses to be known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People." The Opposition sought to remind the government that it is the President who "summons, prorogues and addresses" the Parliament.

"In short, the Parliament cannot function without the President. Yet, the Prime Minister has decided to inaugurate the new Parliament building without her. This undignified act insults the high office of the President, and violates the letter and spirit of the Constitution. It undermines the spirit of inclusion which saw the nation celebrate its first woman adivasi President," the Opposition parties said in the statement.

**Muting Opposition**

The Opposition accused Mr. Modi of relentlessly hollowing out Parliament by disqualifying, suspending and muting Opposition members, and by passing several controversial legislation without any debate. It also pointed out that the new building was constructed at "great expense" during a "once-in-a-century" pandemic, with "no consultation with the people of India or MPs".

"When the soul of democracy has been sucked out from the Parliament, we find no value in a new building. We announce our collective decision to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building. We will continue to fight in letter, in spirit and in substance against this authoritarian Prime Minister and his government and take our message directly to the people," they said.

Minutes after the joint statement was released, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet that the Parliament is not built by "bricks of ego" but through constitutional values.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress president Jagan Mohan Reddy, however, said his party's MPs would attend, and slammed those planning to boycott the inauguration. He also urged all parties to set aside the political differences and to attend the event.

## One killed, houses torched in Manipur

The bullets hit two people, both said to be staying at the relief camp in Bishnupur's Moirang, a town associated with Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army. While Toijam Chandramani, who had been displaced from Churachandpur's Thengra Leikai, died of injuries on the way to a local hospital, the other person is undergoing treatment.

The incident led to protests in parts of Imphal Valley. Reports said that a group of women belonging to the Meitei community briefly blocked an Army convoy headed toward Churachandpur on Wednesday morning.

The protesters said the Army and paramilitary forces were not taking any action against the Kuki extremists in ceasefire mode despite their alleged involvement in the violence.

As tension flared up, the authorities withdrew the relaxation of curfew from Bishnupur, Imphal East, and Imphal West districts.

Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, who also holds the Home portfolio, has sought 20 more companies of Central forces to deal with the recurring violence in some areas.

## Won't let anyone mar India-Australia ties: PM

The issue has been a sticking point in bilateral relations between the two countries, especially in the backdrop of a spurt in Khalistani activities in Australia.

Fights broke out between the supporters of Khalistan and opponents of the movement in Melbourne on January 29. Subsequently, in March, the police identified six men who were involved in the brawl that broke out over an online "referendum" on Khalistan.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, in an interaction with the media, welcomed the actions taken by Australian authorities against separatist elements. Mr. Kwatra said Mr. Modi had acknowledged Canberra's "correct appreciation" of the activities of separatist forces operating out of Australian territory. Mr. Kwatra also said that the two leaders had discussed the need for "reform" of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

Speaking before Mr. Modi, Mr. Albanese emphasised regional security and said the Quad's leaders stood together for "an open, stable secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region". The two countries had operationalised the ECTA in December 2022, and Mr. Modi said the plan is to upgrade the discussion towards a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

# Modi must convene talks with Meitei, tribal leaders: Cong.

The party's fact-finding team says 54,000 displaced in violence which left communities divided; calls for ₹20-lakh relief for families of victims

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi should immediately begin talks between the leaders of the Meitei and tribal communities to restore peace in Manipur, the Congress said on Wednesday after the party's fact-finding team visited the State.

Senior party leader Ajoy Kumar said that extremists had taken over the narrative in the State, leaving the two communities starkly divided.

"The worrying sign is that the situation has gone out of control from the politicians and the narrative has been taken over by the extremists. Now, even politicians are speaking this language. Kuki officials have left the [Imphal] valley and gone to hills and Meitei officials have left hills and gone to the valley," Mr. Kumar said at a press conference in New Delhi after the fact-finding delegation submitted its report.

**Standing ground:** Meitei people staging a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"This has never happened in independent India. In my police career, I have never seen this kind of separation of communities. The Congress demands that Prime Minister and Home Minister should immediately start negotiations by convening a meeting of leaders of both the communities," added the former Lok Sabha member, who was an IPS officer before joining politics.

**Ground assessment**

On May 17, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge sent a delegation, headed by Mukul Wasnik, to visit the State and make an assessment of the situation on the ground.

The Congress team found that as many as 54,000 people have been displaced, over 2,000 homes and 20 police stations burnt down, 200 churches damaged, and 1,000 semi-automatic weapons and 6,000 ammunition rounds stolen from police training centres, Mr. Kumar said.

The fact-finding delegation, which called on the Governor, has demanded immediate rehabilitation of the victims of violence, enhanced security for villages, a compensation of ₹20 lakh for the next of kin of those who died.

# Manipur tribal body calls for separation of hill areas in the State

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI

**ITLF describes itself as a conglomerate of the recognised tribes in Manipur's Churachandpur**

A tribal leaders' forum in Manipur has sought the "total separation" of the hill areas inhabited by the indigenous people, primarily those belonging to the Kuki-Chin-Zomi-Mizo group, from the State.

In a petition to former CRPF chief Kuldiep Singh, appointed as the security adviser to the Manipur government soon after ethnic clashes broke out in the State on May 3, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) said the tribal people of Manipur "could no longer live with the dominant Meiteis anymore".

The ITLF describes itself as a conglomerate of the recognised tribes in Manipur's Churachandpur, one of the worst-affected districts during the ethnic clashes. The "endless atrocities" have proved that the Meiteis hate the tribal people, a statement issued by ITLF chairman Pagin Haokip and secretary Muan Tombing said.

**Five demands**

Accusing the State government machinery of unleashing genocide on the tribal people and citing a "long history of resentment and discrimination", the ITLF outlined five demands for the Centre to look into.

The forum asked the Centre to facilitate the "homecoming" of more than 100 unidentified tribal bodies lying in Imphal hospitals and elsewhere for proper burial.

The ITLF claimed the hill areas had not received any relief from the Centre after 19 days of the Manipur crisis.

**Stopping the violence**

The forum also sought the resettlement or reposting of tribal employees of the State and Central governments as early as possible. Such employees have not been able to report for duty in Imphal Valley.

The ITLF further sought protection against two armed radical Meitei groups – Arambam Tenggol and Meitei Leepun – in the border areas of the tribal habitations by neutral forces. Holding these groups responsible for the killing of tribal people and the destruction of their houses, the forum said they needed to be stopped.

Sourav Ganguly

## Googlies over Tripura's recognition for Ganguly

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLKATA

The decision by the BJP-led government in Tripura to appoint former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly as the brand ambassador for the northeastern State has once again triggered a political row between the BJP and Trinamool Congress.

Leaders of the West Bengal BJP on Monday hailed the decision of the Tripura government and emphasised that it fixed a mistake made by the Trinamool government.

In October 2022, the Trinamool Congress leadership including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee cried foul when Mr. Ganguly was denied a second term as president of the BCCI.

The Trinamool leadership said that the BJP was deliberately trying to politicise the issue.

# ED searches online gaming companies for FEMA violations

**Devesh K. Pandey**
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches against foreign-registered online gaming companies and websites at 25 locations in Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for suspected violations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), involving about ₹4,000 crore.

The agency has frozen 55 bank accounts of firms allegedly being used for layering and remitting overseas the income generated from online gaming in the guise of remittances against import of goods and services.

While 11 premises have been searched in Delhi, seven are situated in Gujarat, four in Maharashtra, two in Madhya Pradesh and one in Andhra Pradesh.

"These online gaming companies/websites are registered in small island countries like Curacao, Malta and Cyprus. However, all of them are linked to the Indian bank accounts opened in the name of proxy persons," said the agency on Wednesday.

The agency searched the premises linked to several "hawala operators". The searches have resulted in the seizure of incriminating documents and electronic evidence related to the case, the agency alleged.

# Independence of judiciary is part of basic structure of Constitution: SC

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that the independence of district judiciary is part of the basic structure of the Constitution and judicial independence from the executive and the legislature requires the judiciary to have a say in matters of finances.

> Judiciary must possess the power to compel payment of money which is necessary to carry out its mandated responsibilities
> SUPREME COURT

"The independence of the district judiciary must also be equally a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Without impartial and independent judges in the district judiciary, justice, a preambular goal, would remain illusory. The district judiciary is, in most cases, also the court which is most accessible to the litigant," a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices V. Ramasubramanian and P.S. Narasimha observed in a judgment.

The judgment, based on a petition filed by the All India Judges Association, gave a series of directions to amend the service rules of the district judiciary and for payment of arrears of pension, additional pension, gratuity and other retiral benefits.

The directions were based on the recommendations made in the report of the court-appointed Second National Judicial Pay Commission headed by Justice P.V. Reddi (retired) as its chairman with senior advocate R. Basant as its member.

**Crucial role**

The judgment records the crucial role played by the district judiciary in the justice administration system by recording the submissions made by its *amicus curiae*, advocate K. Parameshwar, that "on a single day, the district judiciary handled nearly 11.3 lakh cases".

Justice Narasimha said the district judiciary was the backbone of the judicial system. "Vital to the judicial system is the independence of the judicial officers. To secure their impartiality, it is important to ensure their financial security and economic independence," the top court noted.

The judgment highlighted the doctrine that the "judiciary must possess the inherent power to compel payment of those sums of money which are reasonable and necessary to carry out its mandated responsibilities".

"This doctrine is only the logical conclusion of separation of powers and ensures that the independence of the judiciary is secured," the court said.

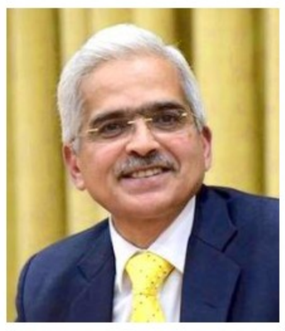
# GDP growth expected to exceed 7% estimate in FY23, says RBI Governor

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

India's GDP growth in 2022-23 may well surpass the 7% estimate, while retail inflation is likely to go below the 4.7% mark this month, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Wednesday.

He added that gross non-performing assets in the banking system are likely to have dipped further in the January to March 2023 quarter.

"I will not be surprised if India's GDP growth last year turns out to be higher than the 7% estimated earlier," the Governor said, noting that almost all of the 70 high-frequency indicators monitored by the central bank have maintained growth momentum through the last quarter of 2022-23. The National Statistical Office will release the GDP data for 2022-23 next week.



Shaktikanta Das

The RBI's growth expectation of 6.5% for this year – which Mr. Das noted is higher than the 5.9% projected by the International Monetary Fund – is based on the hope of agriculture doing well, a normal monsoon and a sustained uptick in the services sector, though geopolitical risks, slowing world trade and goods exports remain a risk.

Mr. Das, who was speaking at the annual session of the Confederation of Indian Industry, said that there was a private investment revival under way which was noticeable in sectors such as steel and cement. He added that the industry body's surveys suggest that capacity utilisation in manufacturing is higher than the 75% level last estimated by the RBI.

"Inflation has moderated to 4.7% in the last print and the next print could be even lower but there us no room for complacency. In February last year, the outlook was very benign, but then we had the big surprise from the Ukraine war. Nobody expected it to happen with such intensity," Mr. Das said.

**Evolving situation**

On whether the coming monetary policy review could see another pause in rate hikes, Mr. Das said: "It's not in my hands. It depends on the situation on the ground as it evolves."

While some central banks have hit a pause on rate hikes in recent meetings, the Governor pointed out that the Bank of New Zealand had raised interest rates by 25 basis points earlier on Wednesday, while Canada – which had paused hikes – opted to increase rates again recently.

"So, therefore, global monetary policy is still settling down because the inflationary conditions are fast evolving and all central banks are watching it," he said.

Mr. Das alluded to unaudited fourth quarter results (Jan-March 2023) from banks that suggested gross non-performing assets at the systemic level were even lower than the 4.4% recorded as of December 31, 2022. "But I would not like to mention the number because they are unaudited and we would rather wait for the audited figures," he added.

# On India's initiative, G-20 to take up effect of graft on women

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**It will focus on how G-20 countries can come together and build an operational framework**

On India's request, a G-20 working group on fighting corruption will discuss how graft impacts women. The role of audit institutions and attempts to build a consensus on a common definition of economic offenders are also among the topics that will be discussed at the second G-20 anti-corruption working group meeting scheduled to begin in Rishikesh on Thursday, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

The Minister said that India was organising a unique event on exploring "G-20's perspective on synergising gender sensitivity with anti-corruption strategies" on Thursday on the sidelines of the second G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) meeting.

India would highlight its own experiences where anti-corruption efforts have helped in empowerment of women, he said.

S. Radha Chauhan, Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), said the meeting will focus on how G-20 countries can come together and build an informational as well as operational framework for networking, sharing information and preventing the creation of safe havens that fugitive economic offenders can exploit.

It is a unique step in taking forward India's priority of strengthening the fight against corruption.

# Joshi asks Opposition to rethink decision to boycott inauguration

## Himanta replies to criticism, says CMs had opened Legislative Assembly buildings instead of Governors in a few States ruled by rivals of the BJP

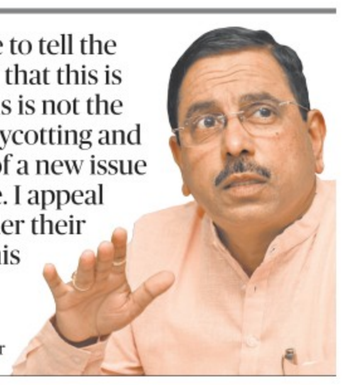
**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Appealing to 19 Opposition parties to reconsider and reverse their decision to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building on May 28, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi urged them to be a part of the historic function.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Joshi said: "I would like to tell them that this is a historic event. This is not the time for politics. Boycotting and making issues out of a new issue is most unfortunate. I appeal to them to reconsider their decision and join this historic function."

Sharing details of the planned ceremony at a press conference, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also said that the Opposition parties had been invited and that they should now act according to "their wisdom".

> I would like to tell the Opposition that this is a historic event. This is not the time for politics. Boycotting and making issues out of a new issue is most unfortunate. I appeal to them to reconsider their decision and join this historic function
>
> **PRALHAD JOSHI**
> Parliamentary Affairs Minister



**'Head of state sidelined'**

One the main demands of Opposition parties over the past few days has been that the actual inauguration should be done by President Droupadi Murmu, who is India's head of state, rather than by the Prime Minister, who is the head of the government.

In response to this criticism, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a tweet that in the past nine years, five non-BJP State governments had laid the foundation stone of or inaugurated new Legislative Assembly buildings in their States, all of which were done by the Chief Ministers of those States or by presidents of the parties ruling those States. Not a single one was inaugurated by the Governors, who are the constitutional post holders, he said.

"In 2014, UPA Chief Ministers laid the foundation stones of Assembly buildings in Jharkhand and Assam, where the Governor was not invited. In 2018, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh laid the foundation stone of the new Assembly, Governor was not invited. In 2020, then-Congress president Sonia Gandhi laid the foundation stone of the Chattisgarh Assembly, Governor not invited. In 2023, new Telangana Assembly inaugurated by Chief Minister, Governor not invited," Mr. Sarma said in a tweet.

The Opposition parties had released a statement saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to inaugurate the building without President Droupadi Murmu "insults the high office of the President, and violates the letter and spirit of the Constitution".

Mr. Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will dedicate the new Parliament building to the nation on May 28. Invitations have been sent in both physical and digital forms to the MPs of both Houses.

# Sceptre which symbolised transfer of power in 1947 to be installed at new Parliament

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will install a sceptre called the *Sengol*, which was given by the British to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to represent the transfer of power in 1947, in the new Parliament building that will be inaugurated on May 28, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

The sceptre, which was kept in a museum in Prayagraj, formerly Allahabad, will be installed near the podium of the Lok Sabha Speaker.

"*Sengol* makes the spirit of August 15, 1947 unforgettable and the Parliament House is the most appropriate and sacred place to install it," Mr. Shah said. "Transfer of power is not a mere exchange of documents; it is done when the government runs according to traditions and culture. *Sengol* in new Parliament building indicates the sentiments espoused by Nehru*ji* in 1947."

It was originally used to mark the handing over of power from one king to another during the Chola dynasty in Tamil Nadu, he said.

The five-feet-long intricately carved, unbending gold-plated silver sceptre, with a finial of Nandi (bull deity), was specially commissioned by the then Thiruvavaduthurai *Adheenam* (pontiff) and was handed over to Nehru. The Thiruvavaduthurai math is located in Mayiladuthurai district of Tamil Nadu, at the heart of the erstwhile Chola kingdom, in the delta area of the Cauvery.

**Chola connect:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing a press conference on the installation of *Sengol* (seen on the backdrop). ANI

*Sengol* is derived from Tamil word *semmai*, which means righteousness. When a new king is crowned, he would be presented with a *Sengol* during the coronation by the high priest. The *Sengol* reminds the recipient that he has the *aanai* (order or decree) to rule justly.

It was freedom fighter C. Rajagopalachari who approached the Thiruvavaduthurai math head seeking help in the making of the *Sengol*. The seer then tasked the craftsmen from Vummidi Bangaru, a jeweller in Madras, with the work.

Mr. Shah said the sceptre was accepted by the first Prime Minister of India at his residence on the night of August 14, 1947 in the presence of several leaders. "Even after 75 years of Independence, most of the people in India are not aware of this event. Nehru received the *Sengol* from the *Adheenams* of Tamil Nadu, who had specially arrived for the occasion," the Union Minister said.

"All 20 Adheenam presidents will also be present to shower their blessings in reminiscence of this sacred ritual. I am glad that 96-year-old Vummidi Bangaru Chetty*ji*, associated with its construction, will also participate," Mr. Shah said.

*(With inputs from Sai Charan N. in Mayiladuthurai)*

# How a letter to PMO set off search for *Sengol*

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**
NEW DELHI

A letter to the Prime Minister's Office by dancer Padma Subrahmanyam set off meticulous research into the *Sengol* leading to the installation of the golden sceptre in the new Parliament building when it is inaugurated on May 28.

Sources in the Culture Ministry said that Dr. Subrahmanyam had quoted an article in the Tamil magazine *Thuglak* which had carried details of the ceremony in 1947. The article had appeared in May 2021 and the dancer and researcher had requested the government to make this information public on the occasion of Independence Day that year.

This set the tone for a relook at the historical event and a Culture Ministry team, assisted by experts from the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), began the research into the reports.

The *Sengol* ceremony seemingly took place minutes before India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted the National Flag and made his famous "Tryst with destiny" speech on August 15, 1947. It had been kept at his Prayagraj residence-turned-museum till now.

**Widely reported**

It was found to have been widely reported in Indian and foreign media at that time including in the *Time* magazine along with photographs.

"With the nation ravaged by Partition and violence, the ceremony had to be arranged post-haste and it not being a legal or formal matter, remained unrecorded. As a result, the sacred *Sengol* and its vesting ceremony seem to have disappeared from the institutional memory of the Indian state," Sachidanand Joshi, Member-Secretary of the IGNCA, told *The Hindu*.

The then Prime Minister had been handed over the *Sengol* amid the singing of the sacred Tamil text *Thevaram* – symbolic of divine blessings and command to rule justly and fairly.

They found that the golden sceptre was studded with jewels and worth ₹15,000 at that time and was made by Vummidi Bangaru Chetty and Sons, jewellers and diamond merchants of Chennai.

The Vummidi Bangaru Chetty family confirmed that they made the *Sengol*.

# BJP shows disregard for SC verdict, says Delhi CM

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said that the recently issued Ordinance for control of services in the national capital reflects the lack of faith of the Narendra Modi government in the Supreme Court's verdict.

"By bringing the Delhi Ordinance, the BJP has made it evident that they are disregarding the verdict of the Supreme Court. This will be like a semi-final in the Rajya Sabha. If this Bill fails to pass in Parliament, the Modi government will not be coming back to power in the 2024 election," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal also met Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai, to seek support for his party's fight against the Ordinance.

# 13 NDA constituents flay boycott of new Parliament opening

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**It said such disrespect shows a disturbing contempt for the very essence of democracy**

In a statement signed by 13 of its members, the National Democratic Alliance has condemned the decision by 19 Opposition parties to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28.

The statement was signed by BJP president J.P. Nadda, Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena, Conrad Sangma of the National People's Party, Neiphiu Rio of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, Prem Singh Tamang of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Dushyant Chautala of the JJP, Pashupati Kumar Paras of the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party, G.K. Vasan of the Tamil Manila Congress, Anupriya Patel of the Apna Dal (Sonelal), Edappadi K. Palaniswami of the AIADMK, Devanathan Yadav of the Makkal Kalvi Munnetra Kazhagam, Sudesh Mahto of the All Jharkhand Students Union and Zoramthanga of the Mizo National Front.

"Such flagrant disrespect towards this institution betrays not only intellectual bankruptcy but a disturbing contempt for the very essence of democracy," reads the statement. "These Opposition parties have repeatedly shown scant regard for parliamentary procedures, disrupted sessions, staged walkouts during crucial legislation and demonstrated a lackadaisical attitude towards their parliamentary duties," it says.

Quoting instances like boycotting the special GST session, to skipping Pranab Mukherjee's investiture with the Bharat Ratna, and staunchly opposing the candidature of President Droupadi Murmu "as an affront to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes", the statement said the Opposition parties had the "audacity" to preach about democratic values.

"It is painfully apparent that the Opposition shuns Parliament because it represents the will of the people – a will that has repeatedly rejected their antiquated and self-serving politics," it says.

# Subramanian Swamy opposes Rahul's plea for passport

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Wednesday opposed the plea filed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi before a Delhi court seeking issuance of a fresh passport.

Mr. Gandhi had surrendered his diplomatic passport following his disqualification as an MP on March 26 after a Surat court convicted him in a criminal defamation case over his 'Modi' surname remark.

Mr. Gandhi told the court that he could be granted a no-objection certificate.

Dr. Swamy, who is the complainant in the *National Herald* case in which Mr. Gandhi is one of the accused, told the court that as the cases were pending, allowing the applicant to travel abroad would hamper the ongoing investigation.

The court maintained that Dr. Swamy had the right to file a reply to the applicant's plea.

Mr. Gandhi's plea was filed ahead of his visit to the U.S. during which he is expected to address a rally in New York on June 4.

# Akhilesh says BJP does not have respect for Opposition

**The Hindu Bureau**
LUCKNOW

Announcing the Samajwadi Party's decision on Wednesday to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building, party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the BJP failed to understand the basic spirit of the *shloka*s (scriptural verses) written there, and added that where there is pride of power but no respect for the Opposition, it cannot be a true Parliament.

"Why to go in such an inauguration," the SP president said.

भारत सरकार / Government of India, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान/
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
[वि.अ.आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित]
[Declared as Deemed to be University under Sec.3 of the UGC Act 1956]
वलियमला पोस्ट / Valiamala PO, तिरुवनंतपुरम / Thiruvananthapuram -695 547
दूरभाष/ Phone: 0471-2568643/603, फैक्स/ Fax:0471-2568602 ई – मेल E-mail: recruitment@iist.ac.in

WALK- IN-INTERVIEW

ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR CANTEEN AND RESIDENT ASSISTANT HOSTEL MANAGER (MALE) ON CONTRACT BASIS

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) conducts Walk-in-Interview on 30.05.2023 (Tuesday) at 0930 hrs at ISRO Guest House, Marappalam, Pattom PO, Thiruvananthapuram for contract positions Assistant Manager for Canteen and Resident Assistant Hostel Manager. The requirement is for its Valiamala Campus, Nedumangad, Thiruvananthapuram- 695 547.

For more details such as educational qualification, age, experience etc., and for downloading application form, please visit our website https://www.iist.ac.in/career/2.

Advt. No: IIST/ Admn/RMT/02/2023 Dated 24.05.2023

डी.आई.पी.आर/5836 दिनांक 21.04.2023

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग, अजमेर**

क्रमांकः- अमुअ/अज./तक./एफ-2( 30ए) निविदा/डी-553 दिनांक 15.05.2023

NIB No.:-PWD2223A0206
UBN No.:- PWD2324WLOB00889 to PWD2324WLOB00893.

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक अमुअ/अज /तक / एफ-2( 30ए)निविदा/ डी-221 दिनांक 20.04.2023 द्वारा निविदा सूचना संख्या 03 वर्ष 2023-24 (सड़क निर्माण कार्यों बाबत्) के अंकित कार्यों में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार प्रथम संशोधन किये जाते हैः-

| संशोधन विवरण | पूर्व में लिखित | अब पढ़ा जावे |
|---|---|---|
| निविदा आवेदन/ डाउनलोड करने की तारीख | सोमवार 24 अप्रेल, 2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से मंगलवार 16 मई, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक। | सोमवार 24 अप्रेल, 2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से सोमवार 29 मई, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक। |
| निविदा जमा कराने की तारीख | सोमवार 24 अप्रेल, 2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से मंगलवार 16 मई, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक। | सोमवार 24 अप्रेल, 2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से सोमवार 29 मई, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक। |
| निविदा खोलने की तारीख | गुरूवार 18 मई, 2023 को सायं 5.00 बजे से। | बुधवार 31 मई, 2023 को सायं 5.00 बजे से। |

शेष वर्णित सूचना एवं शर्तें पूर्वानुसार ही रहेगी।

(विकास दीक्षित),
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग,
संभाग-अजमेर।

DIPR/C/7086/2023

**NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**
A STATE UNIVERSITY OF GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
(FORMERLY NETAJI SUBHAS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)
AZAD HIND FAUJ MARG, SECTOR-3, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110078
Phone no. 011-25099290 Website: www.nsut.ac.in

**NOTICE FOR M. TECH. ADMISSIONS 2023-24**

Online Registrations for M. Tech. Admissions 2023-24 in NSUT are opened from 12.5.2023 to 31.05.2023 for both valid GATE score holders and non- GATE candidates. Complete details / Information Brochure can be accessed through the website **http://www.nsut.ac.in**. For all further updates candidates are advised to check the above website regularly.

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**

**Tender No : 34/2023-24/PHC/KNR(Re-tender), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** - Kannur District - MALUR Grama panchayath-zone-I-WSS To Mattannur, Iritty and adjoining Panchayath phase III-Construction of 8 LL GLSR at Chithrapeetam, Laying Distribution System and Providing FHTCs. **EMD :** Rs. 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 07-06-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 04972705902, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-351-2023-24 PH Circle, Kannur

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

e-Tenders are invited for procurement of certain categoy materials to TTD Press, i.e. Maha Prasadam Covers, Window Covers, Straw Board. Heidelberg & HMT CTP plates, Star Plus U Developer, Star Plus U Replenisher, Ultra Fount solution and Nova Wash Universal. For Tender notice & details please see the NIT ROC No. TTD-44021(34)/4/2022-PRESS SEC-TTD. Please log on to the website: **http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in.** For further details contact : **0877-2264355 or 0877-2264292**

Roc No.PR4/13954/Adv. No.64/PRO/2023,DT.24.05.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा**

क्रमांक : 453 दिनांक : 16.05.2023

**संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या- 23/2022-23**

इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या- 23/2022-23 के पत्रांक 4380 दिनांक 17.03.2023, संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 178 दिनांक 20.04.2023, संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 221 दिनांक 27.04.2023 एवं संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 339 दिनांक 04.05.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

| क्र.सं. | पूर्व में | अब यह पढ़ा जावे |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख **28.03.2023 से 23.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक** | ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख **28.03.2023 से 29.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक** |
| 2 | ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख **28.03.2023 से 23.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक** | ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख **28.03.2023 से 29.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक** |
| 3 | ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख **25.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक** | ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख **31.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक** |
| 4 | बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443–00–108–00–00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 - (16)– [02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से **दिनांक 23.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड अकलेरा** के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं **निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents)** शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा। | बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443–00–108–00–00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 - (16)– [02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से **दिनांक 29.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड अकलेरा** के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं **निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents)** शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा। |

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। **UBN No. PWD2223WLOB18855**

(नारायण सिंह मीणा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

DIPR/C/7164/23

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा**

क्रमांक : 455 दिनांक : 16.05.2023

**संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या- 26/2022-23**

इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या- 26/2022-23 के पत्रांक 4470 दिनांक 24.03.2023, संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 180 दिनांक 20.04.2023, संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 223 दिनांक 27.04.2023 एवं संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 341 दिनांक 04.05.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

| क्र.सं. | पूर्व में | अब यह पढ़ा जावे |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख **03.04.2023 से 17.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक** | ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख **03.04.2023 से 29.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक** |
| 2 | ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख **03.04.2023 से 17.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक** | ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख **03.04.2023 से 29.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक** |
| 3 | ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख **19.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक** | ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख **31.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक** |
| 4 | बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443–00–108–00–00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 - (16)– [02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से **दिनांक 17.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड** के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं **निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents)** शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा। | बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443–00–108–00–00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 - (16)– [02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से **दिनांक 29.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड** के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं **निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents)** शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा। |

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। **UBN No. PWD2223WLOB19628, PWD2223WLOB19629, PWD2223WLOB19630**

(नारायण सिंह मीणा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

DIPR/C/7166/23

**DELHI JAL BOARD (GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI)**
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**THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-III, KANHAIYA NAGAR, DELHI-110035, PHONE: 011-27394876 Email: eecdr3@gmail.com**

**PRESS NIT No- 03(2023-24)**

| S.No. | Name of work | Estimated Contract Value (ECV/ Amount put to tender (Rs) | EMD (Rs.) | Non Refundable Tender processing fee (Rs) | Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id. | Last date/ time of receipt of tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Design, Construction, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Trial Run, DLP and Operation & Maintenance of 15 MGD (68.10 MLD) Wastewater treatment Plant, Sewage Pumping Stations at Hiranki & Zindpur, allied Rising mains and Treated Effluent line and other associated/allied, appurtenant work with effluent standard of BOD 10mg/l, TSS-10 mg/l and power generation on Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) on DBO basis at Zindpur in Narela AC, Delhi | Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) BASIS | 2,43,90,000/- | 1500/- | 23.05.2023 / 2023_ DJB_241538 _1 | 30.06.2023 upto 3.00 P.M |

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**.
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**Advt. No. J.S.V. 45(2023-24)** EE(C)DR-III

## INBRIEF

### *INSV Tarini* returns to Goa after 188-day voyage

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) *Tarini* with a six-member crew entered Goa harbour on Tuesday, reaching India after successfully completing a 17,000 NM (nautical mile) trans-ocean inter-continental voyage after 188 days. The crew of six women was received at the jetty by Chief Minister of Goa Pramod Sawant, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani, and Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar. Admiral Kumar said that the voyage is not an end in itself, but the start of a new phase of providing an ocean of opportunities for women sailors to conquer the seven seas.

### Uttarakhand, northeast to get Vande Bharat trains

Uttarakhand and the northeastern region will have their first Vande Bharat trains flagged off in the last week of May. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually flag off the Delhi-Dehradun Vande Bharat train on Thursday, and bookings for passengers will likely be accepted from May 29. While the Dehradun Janshatabdi traverses a distance of 305 km in five hours and 50 minutes, it is being claimed that the Vande Bharat will cut travel time by at least an hour. Another Vande Bharat train between Guwahati in Assam to New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal is likely to be flagged off on May 29. The 400-km distance between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri is currently covered in six hours by Rajdhani Express.

### HC directs *status quo* on Dahod mosque demolition

The Gujarat High Court has directed local authorities in Dahod district to maintain *status quo* on the land where the local municipality razed a decades-old Nagina mosque on May 20. The directive came on a petition filed by the Nagina Mosque Trust, which submitted that the mosque and its adjacent structures were demolished without notice. The trust submitted that the mosque and its compound, where some shops were built and given on rent, were all Wakf property and could not be demolished by the civic body. The court has directed the parties to maintain *status quo* and issued a notice returnable by June 8.

### Assam, Meghalaya start talks on boundary disputes

The Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya on Wednesday initiated the second phase of talks to resolve disputes in the six remaining sectors along the 884.9-km border that they share. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart, Conrad K. Sangma, signed an agreement on March 29, 2022, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to formally end the dispute in six sectors. Dr. Sarma said the regional committees of both States would start visiting the six other sectors and submit their reports by July-end after which a Chief Minister-level review meeting will be held.

## Satyajit Ray's kin welcome court order on copyright

**Press Trust of India**
KOLKATA

The family of Satyajit Ray on Wednesday hailed the Delhi High Court order recognising the film maestro as the first copyright owner for his film *Nayak* as a "welcome development" in the field of rights over creative content.

Ray's filmmaker-son Sandip Ray said that he considered the verdict a vindication of his father's right over his own creative content. "The court's order is a welcome development," he said.

The order, he said, would help in bolstering the creative right of a filmmaker or a writer on his/her works and help in resolving future disputes.

Ray, a master storyteller, had written and directed the 1966 Bengali film, which was produced by R.D. Bansal.

Justice C. Hari Shankar of the Delhi High Court, in his order on Tuesday, said Ray was the first owner of the copyright to the screenplay and the right to novelise it is also vested in him.

The later conferment of this right by his son and the Society for Preservation of Satyajit Ray Archives on a third party was "wholly in order," it said.

The court rejected an assertion by the family of the film's producer Bansal that the copyright of the film as well as the screenplay belonged to them and said they had no right to injunct the "novelisation of the screenplay" by third parties.

# India set to triple speed of its fastest supercomputers

Processing power to such a degree eases complex mathematical calculations required for accurate weather forecasting

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

India is set to dramatically scale up its supercomputing prowess and install an 18-petaflop system over the course of this year, Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Wednesday.

Flops (floating point operations per second) are an indicator of processing speed of computers and a petaflop refers to a 1,000 trillion flops. Processing power to such a degree greatly eases complex mathematical calculations required, for, among other things, forecasting how the weather will be over the next few days all the way up to two or three months ahead.

Currently India's most powerful, civilian supercomputers – Pratyush and Mihir – with a combined capacity of 6.8 petaflops are housed at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida, respectively. They were made operational in 2018 at an investment of ₹438 crore. Both these organisations are affiliated to the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

The new supercomputers too will be housed at the two institutes, M. Ravichandran, Secretary, MoES, said at an event on Wednesday when Mr. Rijiju visited the NCMRWF. This was Mr. Rijiju's first official visit to an MoES institution since taking charge as MoES Minister on May 18.

Pratyush, one of India's most powerful civilian supercomputers, is housed at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.

**Imported from France**

The new supercomputers, yet to be named, are imported from French corporation, ATOS – an information technology service and consulting company. The Narendra Modi government had signed a deal in December 2018 with France to procure high-performance computers worth ₹4,500 crore by 2025.

The new MoES computers are likely to cost ₹900 crore.

"Every four or five years systems have to be upgraded. Our current high-performance computers allow us to map weather and climate changes to a resolution of 12X12 km," Mr. Ravichandran said. "With the new system, we can improve resolution to 6X6 km." This translates to greater clarity and more accurate local forecast. "The goal is eventually to be able to represent an area by 1 km-square grids and that can be used to warn of cloudburst and such rapidly evolving weather systems," he added.

The fastest high-performance computing system in the world is currently the Frontier-Cray system at Oakridge National Laboratory, United States. This has a peak speed of one exa-flop (or about 1,000 petaflops).

The top 10 other systems, based on speed, range from about 400 petaflops to 60 petaflops.

# Netflix goes against practice, streams censored *Bheed*

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

Netflix has released a censored version of Anubhav Sinha's film *Bheed*, going against its usual practice of streaming uncut versions of films it acquires from Indian producers. The film's teaser had irked right-leaning commentators close to the government, as it featured a voice-over of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and a line of dialogue comparing the chaos of the COVID-19 migrant crisis to Partition.

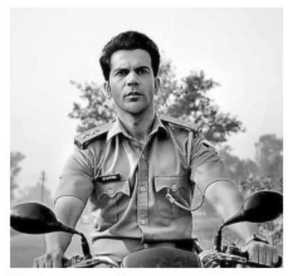
Following the push-back, the film's producers had put out a fresh cut of the teaser, without Mr. Modi's voice and the Partition reference.

Two spokespersons for Netflix India were unavailable for comment; a third did not respond to *The Hindu*'s queries at this time. Mr. Sinha, the film's director, also did not respond to a query.

**CBFC recommendation**

The film's producers did not push back, at least publicly, on the long list of cuts of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) before approving the film for release. The cuts included dropping all instances of seven swear words, reducing visuals of police brutality (something the CBFC routinely asks for), replacing "Prime Minister" with "Minister", and removing voice-overs of Mr. Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

This is the cut that Netflix has now uploaded,


Rajkummar Rao in a promotional still from *Bheed*.

scrubbing the film clean of all associations with the government.

As the government has not objected to uncensored cuts of films on streaming services – the legal regime for OTT streaming services is, at least on paper, far more liberal than for theatres and television. Some, such as Disney+ Hotstar, do not take this risk, and routinely put out censored cuts of films. However, Netflix generally puts out uncensored versions, with new films such as *Dasara* and *Virupaksha* coming out intact. ZEE5 recently put out an uncensored and extended version of the Tamil film *Viduthalai*.

However, even Netflix, which has a better record on preserving films' original forms online, hesitates when it comes to angering the Union government and its supporters.

For instance, while the company generally puts out uncensored version of Hollywood films, it did not do so in the case of *Mission Impossible: Fallout*, which featured a map of Jammu and Kashmir with borders that the Indian government objects to.

# Global body keeps NHRC waiting over 'political meddling'

**National Human Rights Commission says process of re-accreditation is on**

**Ishita Mishra**
NEW DELHI

For the second time in a decade, the UN-recognised Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) deferred the accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission, India (NHRC-India) citing objections such as political interference in appointments, involving the police in probes into human rights violations, and poor cooperation with civil society.

The GANHRI's letter to the NHRC also cited lack of diversity in staff and leadership, and insufficient action to protect marginalised groups, as reasons for the deferment of the accreditation.

The move comes two months after seven human rights watchers/institutions wrote to GANHRI objecting to NHRC India's 'A' rank. They also raised concerns regarding the NHRC's lack of independence, pluralism, diversity and accountability that are contrary to the United Nations' principles on the status of national institutions (the "Paris Principles").

"The NHRC has repeatedly failed to deliver its mandate, in particular to protect the rights of people from marginalised communities, religious minorities, and human rights defenders," the letter said.

**Paris Principles**

The Paris Principles set out six main criteria: mandate and competence; autonomy from government; independence guaranteed by a statute or constitution; pluralism; adequate resources; and adequate powers of investigation.

The NHRC, India has been set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act, passed by Parliament in 1993. It has been accredited as an 'A' Status NHRI since the beginning of the accreditation process for NHRIs in 1999, which it retained in 2006, 2011 and in 2017 also after a deferment.

A letter, written by Amnesty International, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Front Line Defenders, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights, World Organisation Against Torture to GANHRI, maintained that since 2017, instead of following through on the assurances that the NHRC had given GANHRI, the functioning of the commission had further regressed, undermining its independence.

Responding to *The Hindu*, the NHRC-India said that GANHRI, through the sub-committee on accreditation, is responsible for reviewing and accrediting NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles every five years. As part of the process, its review was due in March 2023 for re-accreditation, which has been deferred for a year, meaning that no final decision has been taken as yet.

The NHRC said that the deferment is an action of the sub-committee and not a recommendation on the accreditation status of the NHRC, India. It added that throughout the deferred period, the NHRC, India retains its 'A' Status and associated privileges.

India's top human rights body also said that the process of re-accreditation has not concluded and the sub-committee has recommended advocating with the government and MPs for certain legislative amendments to improve compliance with the Paris Principles. The sub-committee was satisfied with the replies of NHRC, India on most of the issues. It would further submit its response to the sub-committee, the NHRC stated.

## TH CROSSWORD + 13874

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY

**Across**

**1 / 7** Law of nature never changes - start to behave responsibly (4,4,1,3,4)
**5** Like musical instrument's note (1,5)
**10** Finest girl wanting hot, stylish clothes (7)
**11** Most foul-smelling tanker possibly contains sulphur (7)
**12** Mother discarding spade ace (5)
**13** Guy perishes, having primarily broken many bones (9)
**14** Duly act as busy nurses struggle in emergency room (8,4)
**18** Rationalists release plays about hoaxes at inauguration (12)
**21** Consuming cool soft drink with starter of tasty American sausage (9)
**23** Event in 60 minutes, leaving hotel to get bouquet (5)
**24** Galena, say, from a round shaft in sanctuary (4,3)
**25** European, one with sunburn, tackling back pain (7)
**26** Did this and rose to catch fish (6)
**27** Petulant youngster finally restrained by woman's command (8)

**Down**

**1** Mexican dish by mother in American city (6)
**2** Criticises star, so intoxicated (6)
**3** Egg with slice of bacon, helper's attentive (9)
**4** Old CIA document discovered about member banished from church (14)
**6** Succeeds in aim to conquer mountain (5)
**7** See 1 Across
**8** Disregard a dispute perhaps (3,5)
**9** Finish dark rum, filled with desire to consume a lot of alcohol (5,4,1,4)
**15** Long, narrow beer glass ordered for a lady by Earl (4,2,3)
**16** Clobbered fool for consuming cocaine, becoming indecent in America (3-5)
**17** Kill revolting rodents interrupting meeting (8)
**19** Gold coins of Roman empire auctioned around lunchtime at Italy (6)
**20** Champion saves series with century in test (6)
**22** Old bar in Polish city (5)

## SUDOKU

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| 8 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| | | 7 | | 5 | | 4 | | 1 |
| | 5 | | | 7 | | | | 3 |

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

**Solution to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | O | W | N | C | A | S | T | |
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| S | | O | | L | | F | | D |
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| A | M | A | R | Y | L | L | I | S |
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**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 6 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 |

## FAITH

### Lakshmi, Lord's own nectar

In his Sundarabahu stava, sloka four, Kooratazhvan asserts that Lord Narayana has concern and affection for those who do saranagati, said P.B. Rajahamsam, in a discourse. In this sloka, Kooratazhvan refers to the churning of the Milky Ocean by the Lord, where He used the Mandara mountain as the churning rod. Many things emanated from this ocean, and He gave away everything to those assembled there. However, Mahalakshmi, who also emerged from the ocean, went of Her own accord toward His chest, and made that Her permanent residence. The devas were interested in amrita, which came from the ocean. Amrita could confer immortality on the devas. But the Lord was more interested in another nectar that also came from the ocean, and that was Lakshmi. This nectar was entirely His, and was far superior to everything else.

Kooratazhvan describes the dense forests, which cover the mountain. Here one finds the influence of pasurams of Azhvars in Kooratazhvan's ideas. Kooratazhvan speaks of the Moon that moves among the peaks of the mountain. The inspiration is clearly Thirumangai Azhvar's pasuram, where the Azhvar talks of the Moon as crawling between the peaks. The mountain slopes are so densely forested, that it seems as if the mountains themselves are green in colour, as they reach up to the sky. Such is the illusion created by the thick canopy of trees. The celestial maidens like Rambha and Urvashi flock to Thirumaliruncholai to have darshan of Lord Sundarabahu. They want to adorn themselves with urdhva pundra before they go to the sacred shrine. They use the moon as a mirror for this purpose, says Kooratazhvan.

WASHINGTON

## Indian-origin man arrested after crashing truck near White House

REUTERS

An Indian-origin man who crashed a U-Haul truck containing a Nazi flag near the White House has been arrested and charged with trying to kill or harm the U.S. President. Sai Varshith Kandula, 19, from Missouri, drove into the bollards outside Lafayette Park just before 10 p,m, on Monday, the police said. No one was injured. AFP

KYIV

## More than 20,000 men died in Bakhmut battle, says Wagner chief

AP

The head of the Russian private Army Wagner has again broken with the Kremlin line on Ukraine, saying its goal of demilitarising the country has backfired, acknowledging Russian troops have killed civillians and agreeing with Western estimates that he's lost more than 20,000 men in the battle for Bakhmut. AP

ISLAMABAD

## Pakistan govt. mulling possible ban on Imran's PTI party, says Minister

REUTERS

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said the government is mulling a possible ban on Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party following the attacks by his supporters on military offices after the former Prime Minister's arrest. He, however, said that the matter will be referred to the Parliament for approval. PTI

NEW YORK

## Tina Turner, voice behind *What's Love Got to Do With It*, dead at 83

AP

Tina Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer who teamed with husband Ike Turner for a dynamic run of hit records and live shows in the 1960s and '70s and survived her horrifying marriage to triumph in middle age with the chart-topping *What's Love Got to Do With It*, has died at 83. AP

# China appoints new envoy to U.S. in sign of thaw in ties

'I have come here to enhance China-U.S. exchanges and cooperation, and I take this as my important mission,' veteran diplomat Xie Feng tells reporters after arriving in Washington

**Ananth Krishnan**

China's new Ambassador to the U.S. finally landed in Washington on Tuesday, filling a post that unusually remained vacant for close to five months and heralding what some observers see as a possible sign of a limited thaw in recently frosty relations.

Veteran diplomat Xie Feng, who has spent much of his career dealing with the U.S., told reporters after landing in Washington that he had "come here to enhance China-U.S. exchanges and cooperation, and I take this as my important mission". He also added that "as a representative of the Chinese people, I have come here to safeguard the interests of China, and I take this as my sacred responsibility." Mr. Xie succeeds Qin Gang, who was promoted as China's Foreign Minister, after a close to five month gap, leaving a key post vacant during tense relations.

**New innings:** Xie Feng speaks to the media upon his arrival at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on Tuesday. AP

Beijing is also yet to appoint a new Ambassador to New Delhi for almost seven months, another unusually long gap amid a continuing chill in ties. The former envoy, Sun Weidong, left his post in October and took over as a Vice Foreign Minister in Beijing. It is understood that Beijing as of this month had not yet proposed the name of a successor to New Delhi.

The new U.S. envoy, Mr. Xie, noted that "at present, the China-U.S. relationship is faced with serious difficulties and challenges" and referring to President Xi Jinping's "three principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation", said China "hopes that the U.S. will move in the same direction with China, and act in the common interests of the two peoples and the world, properly handling important and sensitive issues, such as the Taiwan question... so as to bring China-U.S. relations back to the right track."

U.S. President Joe Biden last week said a thaw in recently strained relations could be possible "very shortly", speaking after the G-7 Summit in Japan which saw the grouping take a united stand against what they called Chinese economic coercion, sparking a sharp response from Beijing. The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday took a dim view of Mr. Biden's comment, questioning U.S. "sincerity".

### Resuming visits

Both sides have, however, been in talks over resuming high-level visits. A blueprint agreed by Mr. Biden and Mr. Xi following their meeting in Bali in November laid out a plan to boost relations, but tensions over the Chinese "spy balloon" incident led to Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling off a visit that was part of that plan.

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Chinese Politburo member Wang Yi met for two days of talks in Vienna earlier this month, part of what was described as "ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage competition".

# Ron DeSantis launches U.S. presidential campaign; to challenge Trump in primaries

**Associated Press**
MIAMI

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis entered the 2024 U.S. presidential race on Wednesday, stepping into a crowded Republican primary contest that will test both his national appeal as a cultural conservative firebrand and the GOP's willingness to move on from former President Donald Trump.

The 44-year-old Republican revealed his decision in a Federal Election Commission filing before an online conversation with Twitter CEO Elon Musk.

It marks a new chapter in his extraordinary rise from little-known congressman to two-term Governor to a leading figure in the nation's bitter fights over race, gender, abortion, and other divisive issues.

Mr. DeSantis is considered to be Mr. Trump's strongest Republican rival even as the Governor faces questions about his readiness for the national stage.

Mr. DeSantis' audio-only announcement was to be streamed on Twitter Spaces beginning at 6 p.m. EDT (3:30 IMT). He was following up with prime-time appearances on conservative programs, including Fox News and Mark Levin's radio show.

Ron DeSantis

Mr. DeSantis' entry into the Republican field has been rumoured for months and he is considered one of the party's strongest candidates in the quest to retake the White House from Democratic President Joe Biden. The 80-year-old incumbent, Republicans say, has pushed the nation too far left.

The Republican nominee will face Mr. Biden on the general election ballot in November 2024.

Mr. DeSantis begins his campaign in a top-tier of two alongside Mr. Trump based on early public polling, fundraising and campaign infrastructure.

Mr. DeSantis, who likely would not have become the Florida Governor without Mr. Trump's endorsement, has adopted the former President's fiery personality, his populist policies and even some of his rhetoric and mannerisms.

Yet Mr. DeSantis has one thing Mr. Trump does not: a credible claim that he may be more electable in a general election than Mr. Trump, who faces multiple legal threats and presided over Republican losses in three consecutive national elections.

Aware of Mr. DeSantis' draw, Mr. Trump has been almost singularly focused on undermining Mr. DeSantis' political appeal for months. Mr. Trump and his team believe that Mr. DeSantis may be Mr. Trump's only legitimate threat for the nomination.

## Bulgarian writer wins International Booker Prize

**Associated Press**
LONDON

Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel won the International Booker Prize on Tuesday for *Time Shelter*, a darkly comic novel about the dangerous appeal of nostalgia.

The book beat five other finalists to the prize, which recognises fiction from around the world that has been translated into English.

*Time Shelter* imagines a clinic that recreates the past, with each floor reproducing a different decade. Intended as a way to help people with dementia unlock their memories, it soon becomes a magnet for people eager to escape the modern world.

# 'Remember our history, recognise our labour,' say Sri Lanka's Malaiyaha Tamils

**Meera Srinivasan**
COLOMBO

Marking 200 years since their arrival in Sri Lanka from southern India, to work in the British-run plantations, members of the island nation's historically marginalised Malaiyaha [hill country] Tamil community have sought greater recognition, political rights, and improved living and working conditions.

"Design, resource, and implement a 10-year development plan that is explicitly based on the principle of affirmative action in response to the decades of structural exclusion that has resulted in poor human development indices of [the] Malaiyaha Tamil community when compared with all other communities," a key demand read, in a declaration released after a recent three-day public event held in the central Nuwara Eliya city.

The development plan must aim to reduce poverty, provide land and housing, enhance public health and education access, while ensuring labour rights, including a fair living wage and legal protection, the declaration said. Further, it asked the Sri Lankan government to recognise the Malaiyaha Tamils as a community with "a distinct identity and as equal citizens", and ensure appropriate political power sharing and proportional system of electoral arrangements.

**Overlooked lot:** Estate workers from Sri Lanka's Malaiyaha Tamil group earn precious foreign exchange for the country. FILE PHOTO

### Incessant injustices

Organised by the Institute of Social Development, an NGO working on addressing challenges facing the Malaiyaha Tamils, the event sought to highlight the centuries-long struggle of the much-neglected community, while demanding long-pending solutions to their enduring problems. From being deprived of their citizenship in 1948 – the struggle for citizenship continued until 2003 – to being subjected to discrimination and exploitation, the community has been enduring incessant injustices.

Around 1.5 lakh people from the million-strong community currently work in tea and rubber estates, bringing in crucial foreign exchange to Sri Lanka. A majority works outside the plantation ecosystem, including as professionals across sectors.

The estate-bound families, living in the Central, Southern and Uva provinces, are among Sri Lanka's poorest, with some still residing in colonial-era line rooms, without basic amenities. India committed financial assistance to build 14,000 houses in the estate areas, but the slow pace of the project has come under frequent criticism.

Along with Sri Lankan legislators, scholars, workers, artistes and activists from the Malaiyaha Tamil community, popular Tamil rapper Arivu, of *Enjoy Enjaami* fame participated and performed at last weekend's event.

**ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (OSAMB)**
(A Statutory Organization of Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2952410, Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com
No. - 01/MKT-I-09/2023-24 Dated - 23.05.2023
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PARTNER (P)**

OSAMB invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Strategic Management Partner (P).

The RFP documents covering the details of information, eligibility criteria, selection process and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://osamb.odisha.gov.in from 25.05.2023. The last date for submitting the RFP documents along with processing fees of Rs. 11,800/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight hundred) only in shape of DD in favour of "OSAMB" payable at Bhubaneswar through regd / speed post is 19.06.2023 by 5.00 P.M. The technical bids will be opened on 22.06.2023 at 11.30 A.M. The date of opening of financial bids will be intimated subsequently. The Authority reserves the right to reject any / all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

General Manager
OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar

CAD-694: OIPR-01444/11/0003/2324

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग संभाग-प्रथम उदयपुर**
क्रमांकः 92 **निविदा संशोधन सूचना-3** दिनांकः 15.05.2023
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 18/-2022-23 दिनांक 27.03.2023 के क्रम में निविदा की तारीखों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

| विवरण | पूर्व प्रकाशित | संशोधित दिनांक |
|---|---|---|
| ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने एवं जमा कराने की अंतिम तारीख | 16.05.2023, सायं 6 बजे तक | 29.05.2023, सायं 6 बजे तक |
| ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख | 17.05.2023, सायं 4 बजे | 30.05.2023, सायं 4.00 बजे |

निविदा में वर्णित अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
NIB- PWD2324A04960
UBN: PWD2223WLOB20024, PWD2223WLOB20025, PWD2223WLOB20026, PWD2223WLOB20027, PWD2223WLOB20028, PWD2223WLOB20030, PWD2223WLOB20032, PWD2223WLOB20034, PWD2223WLOB20036, PWD2223WLOB20037, PWD2223WSOB20038, PWD2223WSOB20039
(अशोक कुमार शर्मा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. संभाग-प्रथम उदयपुर
DIPR/C/7228/2023

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त बून्दी (राज.)**
क्रमांकः Cashier/D-354 दिनांकः 16.05.2023
**संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2023-2024**
इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक 61 दिनांक 13.04.2023 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2023-24 में ऑन-लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने एवं जमा कराने की दिनांक 21.04.2023 से 11.05.2023 नियत की गई थी। अपरिहार्य कारणों से संशोधित कर निविदा ऑन-लाईन फार्म जमा कराने की दिनांक 30.05.2023 नियत की जाती है एवं निविदा दिनांक 31.05.2023 सायं 3.00 बजे कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सानिवि वृत्त बून्दी में खोली जावेगी।
निविदा की शर्तें एवं निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु संबंधित वेब साईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
NIB Code (PWD2324A0122)
UBN is: (PWD2324WSOB00530) UBN is: (PWD2324WSOB00531)
UBN is: (PWD2324WSOB00532) UBN is: (PWD2324WSOB00533)
UBN is: (PWD2324WSOB00534) UBN is: (PWD2324WSOB00535)
UBN is: (PWD2324WSOB00536) UBN is: (PWD2324WSOB00537)
(वी. के. जैन)
अधीक्षण अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. वृत बून्दी
डीआईपीआर/सी/7234/2023

**ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED**
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theocclt d@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
**"e"-Procurement Notice No. 12 /OCCL/2023-24 (on-line)**
On-line tender is invited for the following work on EPC-Turn Key Basis:

| Sl No. | Name of Work | Bid Identification No. | Approx. Value of work (Rs. In Crores) (excluding GST) | Bid Security (through on-line transfer / Bank Guaran tee) (in Rs.) | Period of Completion | Availability of Tender (on-line) | Submission of tender (on-line) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Construction of distribution system for 3401 ha. of CCA including Command Area Development (CAD) in 6 nos. of Minor Irrigation Projects through Under Ground Pipe Line Irrigation System (gravity flow) in Baragarh & Sundargarh District of odisha on EPC-Turn Key basis including Operation and Maintenance of complete commissioned project for 5 (five) years. {Package-V} | OCCL-UGPL/MI, Pkg 5/ 2023-24 | Rs.8706.56 lakhs | Rs.87,07,000/- | 24 (twenty four) Calendar months | From 26.05.2023, 03.30 PM to 10.07.2023, 5.30 PM. | From 26.05.2023, 03.30 PM to 10.07.2023, 5.30 PM. |

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 11.07.2023, 11.30 AM
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAD-689 OIPR-34120/11/0012/2324

**ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD**
Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2952416, Fax:0674-2952410, Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com, Website: osamboard.org
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**
No. - 04 / Engg.- 67 /2022 Dated - 23.05.2023
Expression of Interest (EoI) in sealed covers are invited for **"Empanelment of Agencies for Establishment and Management of Integrated Pack Houses"**. The detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from **https://osamb.odisha.gov.in** from **25.05.2023 to 16.06.2023**. **The cost of the EoI document is Rs.10,000.00 + 18 % GST**. The EoI Documents / Tender Papers can be downloaded from the website as mentioned above. The applications duly filled in the appropriate format along with the Demand Draft for **Rs.10,000.00 + 18 % GST** drawn in favour of the **OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar** and payable at any Nationalized Bank in Bhubaneswar should reach the Office of the undersigned on or before **5.00 PM of 16.06.2023.** The EoI Documents / Tender Papers can be submitted by Registered Post / through Courier or in person. Bids received after the due time will be rejected. The cost of the bid documents is non refundable.
The bid documents will be opened on **17.06.2023 at 11:00 AM** in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd
General Manager
OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar
CAD-693: OIPR-01444/11/0004/2324

## INBRIEF

### Adani group weighs $3-billion investment in Vietnam

India's Adani group is exploring the possibility of investing up to $3 billion in seaport and renewable energy projects in Vietnam, the Vietnamese government said in a statement on Wednesday. The statement came after a meeting in Hanoi on the same day between Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh and Karan Adani, CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, a unit of the cooking oil-to-coal mining conglomerate Adani Group. REUTERS

### TN Petroproducts Q4 net profit slides 58% on rising input costs

Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd. (TPL) reported standalone net profit for the March-ended quarter contracted 58% year-on-year to ₹10 crore on account of escalating input costs and global uncertainty. Revenue from operations grew by 10% to ₹479 crore, TPL said. "Profitability has been impacted by global uncertainty arising from increasing input and raw-material costs," said Ashwin C. Muthiah, Vice Chairman. The board declared a dividend of ₹1.50 per share for FY23.

### SPIC Q4 net surges threefold to ₹24 crore on cost efficiency

Southern Petrochemicals Ltd. (SPIC) reported standalone net profit for the March-ended quarter surged threefold to ₹24 crore following continuous focus on cost and operational efficiencies. Revenue from operations almost trebled to ₹672 crore while cost of materials consumed more than doubled to ₹461 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing. The board declared a dividend of ₹1.50 per share.

# FDI flows likely to rebound only from 2024-25: Nomura

**Japanese firm expects FY24 to be a challenging year for FDI due to global uncertainty; says domestic pull factors like supply chain relocations are yet to materially lift investment flows**

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows into India, which fell 25.6% in 2022-23 to $28.7 billion, are likely to remain sedate this year as well and may only rebound from 2024-25 onwards, Nomura said on Wednesday.

The drop in net FDI flows last fiscal, from $38.6bn in 2021-22 and $43.5bn in FY21, was more likely due to global push factors such as tighter monetary policies in developed markets, while domestic pull factors like supply chain relocations were yet to materially lift investment flows, the Japanese financial firm said.

"This marks a fall [in FDI] to 0.8% of GDP vs around 1.5% in the past three years," Nomura economists Sonal Varma and Aurodeep Nandi wrote in a note. "Even though outward FDI dropped by $4 billion, net inflows suffered as the fall in inward FDI was steeper," they added.

Nomura reckoned the fall in inflows was led by the services sector.

"We expect 2023-24 to also be a challenging year due to global uncertainty, with a turnaround in FDI inflows more likely from 2024-25," the Nomura economists wrote.

**Inflows interrupted**

Net foreign direct investment shrank 25.6% in FY23 to to $28.7 bn amid tighter monetary policies in developed markets

- Net FDI inflows were $38.6bn in 2021-22 and $43.5bn in FY21
- This marks a fall [in FDI] to 0.8% of GDP vs around 1.5% in past three years: Nomura
- Nomura reckons fall in inflows was led by the services sector

### ₹2,000 note withdrawal won't disrupt economy: Das

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das asserted on Wednesday that there will be no disruption to the economy owing to the ₹2,000 currency note's withdrawal, and said high denomination currencies lingering in the economy can create "collateral issues".

"Trade and business activities are going on," he noted. "It's not being used in transactions, it has completed its life cycle. So it was time to take it out."

### BSE, NSE put Adani flagship under ASM

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

BSE and NSE put the securities of Adani Enterprises under the short-term ASM framework from Thursday.

Adani Enterprises Ltd. is shortlisted in short-term Additional Surveillance Measure (ASM) framework Stage-I effective from May 25, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the BSE said in separate circulars.

Under the short-term ASM, the exchanges said, "applicable rate of margin shall be 50% or existing margin whichever is higher, subject to maximum rate of margin capped at 100%, with effect from May 26... on all open positions as on May 25, 2023, and new positions created from May 26."

On Wednesday, Adani Enterprises tumbled 5.9% on the BSE. In the last three days, the stock had jumped 39.4%.

### 'DGCA to audit Go First before flight resumption'

**Press Trust of India**
MUMBAI

Aviation regulator DGCA will conduct an audit of Go First's preparedness before approving the resumption of flights, the crisis-hit airline's head of operations has told its staff.

Cash-strapped Go First stopped flying on May 3 and is undergoing voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings. Meanwhile, the CEO has assured salaries for April will be credited to staff accounts before operations commence.

### WTO reforms an urgent and top priority for India, says Minister Patel

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

There is an urgent need to address World Trade Organisation (WTO) reforms on a priority basis, said Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.

India has been pitching for WTO reforms and also pressing for better dispute settlement mechanisms during G20 talks. The emphasis of these discussions would be on reaffirming WTO's foundational principles, as embodied in the Marrakesh Agreement and its multilateral trade agreements, thus recognising the need for the open, fair, inclusive and transparent functioning of WTO.

The minister was speaking at the 2nd Trade and Investment Working Group meeting in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

"There is an urgent need for addressing the World Trade Organisation reforms on a top priority basis as WTO assumes a vital role in ensuring fairness and transparency in global trade and forms the backbone of the multilateral trading system," she emphasised.

Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, remarked that India was aiming to emerge as the global leader in the international trade landscape, and that the country is already set to become the second-largest e-commerce market globally.

## MARKETS

**MARKET WATCH**

| | WEDNESDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 61,774 | -0.34 |
| US Dollar | 82.68 | 0.21 |
| Gold | 60,600 | 0.71 |
| Brent oil | 77.30 | 0.10 |

**NIFTY 50**

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 2475.60 | -158.10 |
| Adani Ports | 718.25 | -15.80 |
| Apollo Hosp | 4536.45 | -13.95 |
| Asian Paints | 3101.50 | -19.10 |
| Axis Bank | 917.70 | 1.55 |
| Bajaj Auto | 4517.60 | 19.50 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1426.45 | -10.80 |
| Bajaj Finance | 6785.95 | 5.40 |
| Bharti Airtel | 801.40 | 1.45 |
| BPCL | 363.30 | -3.30 |
| Britannia Ind | 4519.80 | -1.85 |
| Cipla | 938.00 | 7.60 |
| Coal India | 241.00 | 1.70 |
| Divis Lab | 3383.15 | -2.65 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 4519.25 | 58.70 |
| Eicher Motors | 3610.90 | 9.30 |
| Grasim Ind | 1700.35 | 2.40 |
| HCL Tech | 1111.95 | 4.60 |
| HDFC | 2671.75 | -34.10 |
| HDFC Bank | 1615.80 | -21.40 |
| HDFC Life | 566.00 | 3.30 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2738.70 | 28.25 |
| Hindalco | 406.90 | -3.40 |
| Hind Unilever | 2614.95 | -13.35 |
| ICICI Bank | 940.65 | -12.75 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1271.75 | 11.55 |
| Infosys | 1298.65 | -1.40 |
| ITC | 433.50 | 4.35 |
| JSW Steel | 696.00 | -8.10 |
| Kotak Bank | 1910.35 | -11.15 |
| L&T | 2185.15 | -12.50 |
| M&M | 1275.70 | 7.15 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 9270.75 | 70.05 |
| NestleIndia | 21380.60 | -23.10 |
| NTPC | 174.95 | 0.80 |
| ONGC | 166.25 | 1.25 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 235.80 | 1.70 |
| Reliance Ind | 2440.25 | -14.30 |
| SBI Life | 1175.35 | 9.75 |
| State Bank | 582.70 | 1.10 |
| Sun Pharma | 952.15 | 20.55 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 771.15 | 1.10 |
| Tata Motors | 520.20 | -8.30 |
| Tata Steel | 105.20 | -0.40 |
| TCS | 3303.35 | 6.30 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1098.75 | 8.25 |
| Titan | 2707.25 | 23.80 |
| UltraTech Cement | 7653.80 | -0.45 |
| UPL | 682.25 | 1.60 |
| Wipro | 399.70 | 2.05 |

**EXCHANGE RATES**

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 24

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 82.46 | 82.78 |
| Euro | 88.67 | 89.01 |
| British Pound | 102.05 | 102.45 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 59.54 | 59.78 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.70 | 11.74 |
| Swiss Franc | 91.31 | 91.67 |
| Singapore Dollar | 61.16 | 61.40 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.82 | 61.08 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 17.96 | 18.04 |
| Australian Dollar | 54.15 | 54.36 |

Source:Indian Bank

# India Cements Q4 net loss widens to ₹218 cr. on costs

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

The India Cements Ltd. reported standalone net loss for the quarter-ended March widened to ₹218 crore year-on-year from ₹24 crore following rise in input costs and write off of one-time impairment charges of ₹114-crore.

Revenue from operations grew to ₹1,460 crore from ₹1,392 crore while cost of materials rose 7% to ₹259 crore. Overall sales climbed to 98.93 lakh tonnes (90.70 lakh tonnes), the firm said.

"The company's performance was adversely impacted by the increase in the cost of fuel and power and by one-off impairment charges," Vice-Chairman and MD N. Srinivasan said.

"These two major factors together with reduction in blended cement proportion increased the cost of production by more than ₹840 per tonne, while net plant realisation improved hardly by ₹208 per tonne resulting in substantial margin erosion."

Mr. Srinivasan said the firm had a basket of plants of various vintages and technologies and hence, the cost of production, compared with many of the peers, was higher.

Going forward, the company planned to improve liquidity in the short term by selling surplus land parcels. It was on the verge of monetising about 600 acre of surplus land in Tirunelveli which, however, was not a 'distress' sale.

**Focus on cost, debt**

"We are taking steps to reduce variable costs and debt. We have a total outstanding debt of ₹2,900 crore and plan to repay ₹500 crore this year."

On FY24 outlook, he said, "With increased sales, we will achieve break-even next quarter without any price rise."

# LIC Q4 net surges fivefold to ₹13,191 cr.

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

LIC posted a more than fivefold jump in consolidated net profit to ₹13,191 crore for the fourth quarter ended March.

However, the total income declined year-on-year to ₹2,01,022 crore, LIC said in a regulatory filing.

Income from first-year premium also dipped to ₹12,852 crore from ₹14,663.

Income from renewal premiums rose to ₹76,328 crore from ₹71,473 crore a year earlier while single premium slid to ₹43,252 crore from ₹58,251 crore.

For the entire financial year 2022-23, LIC registered a multifold rise in net profit to ₹35,997 crore from ₹4,125 crore in the previous financial year.

The board of LIC has recommended a final dividend of ₹3 per equity share with a face value of ₹10 each for FY23.

Shares of the LIC closed at ₹593.55, or 0.61% higher on the BSE on Wednesday.

Last year, the government raised ₹20,557 crore by diluting its 3.5% stake in LIC through initial public offering (IPO), the country's biggest ever.

### SF Holdings Q4 net more than doubles to ₹95 crore

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Sundaram Finance Holdings Ltd. (SF Holdings) reported standalone net profit for FY23 more than doubled year-on-year to ₹95 crore.

SF Holdings primarily operates as a holding company owning a portfolio of automotive businesses such as foundries, wheels and distribution of spare parts, as per a statement.

Dividend received from portfolio companies more than doubled to ₹97 crore from ₹41 crore.

The board recommended a final dividend of ₹1.50 per share and a special dividend of ₹1 per share.

# SEBI tightens norms for offshore funds

**Reuters**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has asked all foreign funds investing in India to identify their parent financial institution to help unravel opaque ownership structures, according to a letter seen by Reuters.

The letter was sent by SEBI to custodian banks, through which funds flow into the country, earlier this month with a request for the information to be provided by September.

The move follows a regulatory investigation into suspected violations in overseas investments in the Adani group of companies. The Adani group has denied all allegations.

A panel appointed by the Supreme Court to oversee the investigation cited difficulties in obtaining information from offshore entities as one reason the regulator has struggled to reach any conclusion.

SEBI wrote that it has found instances of foreign portfolio investor (FPI) registration being granted to branches of banks. The custodian bank "shall ensure that their client is a legal entity," SEBI stressed.

## Sport

### Indian challenge at table tennis Worlds comes to an end

**Sports Bureau**

The Indian challenge in the World table tennis championships in Durban came to an end on Wednesday, with the exit of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath in the women's doubles event. The Indian pair lost to Hina Hayata and Mima Ito of Japan 8-11, 6-11, 7-11 in the pre-quarterfinals.

On Tuesday, the mixed doubles pair of Manika and G. Sathiyan lost in the pre-quarterfinals to the Swedish pair of Truls Moregard and Christina Kallberg 11-5, 8-11, 8-11, 10-12.

**The results:**

**Men: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford (Eng) bt Sharath Kamal & G. Sathiyan 9-11, 11-8, 14-12, 12-10.

**Women: Third round:** Adriana Diaz (Pur) bt Manika Batra 6-11, 12-10, 11-9, 6-11, 13-11, 9-11, 11-3. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Hina Hayata & Mima Ito (Jpn) bt Manika Batra & Archana Kamath 11-8, 11-6, 11-7.

**Mixed doubles: (pre-quarterfinals):** Truls Moregard & Christina Kallberg (Swe) bt Manika and G. Sathiyan 5-11, 11-8, 11-8, 12-10.

### Lakshya and Prannoy score upset wins; Sindhu, Srikanth also advance

MALAYSIA MASTERS

**Press Trust of India**
KUALA LUMPUR

Lakshya Sena and H.S. Prannoy dished out superb displays to stun World No. 4 Loh Kean Yew of Singapore and World No. 6 Tien Chen Chou of Chinese Taipei respectively in the men's singles first round of the Malaysia Masters Wednesday.

Lakshya, ranked 22, overcame a second-game blip to get past Loh 21-10, 16-21, 21-9 in 55 minutes, while World No. 9 Prannoy held his nerve to upset Chou, ranked sixth, 16-21, 21-14, 21-13 in his opening match to enter the pre-quarterfinals.

Prannoy...big scalp. FILE PHOTO

In another men's singles opening match, K. Srikanth defeated Toma Junior Popov of France 21-12, 21-16.

P.V. Sindhu, seeded sixth, had to toil to get the better of Denmark's Line Christophersen 21-13, 17-21, 21-18 in the women's singles opening round.

However, it was curtains for qualifier Ashmita Chaliha, Aakarshi Kashyap and Malvika Bansod in the women's singles competition as they suffered straight-game defeats to crash out.

While Ashmita lost 17-21, 7-21 against fourth seed Yue Han of China, Aakarshi was shown the door by top seed Japanese Akane Yamaguchi 17-21, 12-21 and Malvika was no match for second seed Zhi Yi Wang of China, losing 11-21, 13-21.

**The results (first round):**

**Men:** H.S. Prannoy bt Tien Chen Chou (Tpe) 21-13, 17-21, 21-18; K. Srikanth bt Toma Junior Popov (Fra) 21-12, 21-16; Lakshya Sen bt Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) 21-10, 16-21, 21-9.

**Women:** P.V. Sindhu bt Line Christophersen (Den) 21-13, 17-21, 21-18; Yue Han (Chn) bt Ashmita Chaliha 21-17, 21-7; Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-17, 21-12; Zhi Yi Wang (Chn) bt Malvika Bansod 21-11, 21-13.

### Ganemat and Anantjeet place sixth in mixed skeet

**Sports Bureau**

Ganemat Sekhon and Anantjeet Singh Naruka shot a combined score of 142 and missed the chance to fight for a medal by one point in mixed skeet in the shotgun World Cup in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday.

It was another fine performance by Ganemat who had clinched the individual silver on Tuesday.

Italians dominated the event by winning the gold and bronze, while host Kazakhstan got the silver.

It was the second medal for Assem Orynbay of Kazakhstan who had won the women's individual gold earlier with a strong performance.

**The results: Mixed skeet:** 1. Italy (Tammaro Cassandro, Chiara Cainero) 41 (144); 2. Kazakhstan (Eduard Yechshenko, Assem Orynbay) 40 (144); 3. Italy-1 (Gabriele Rossetti, Diana Bacosi) 44 (143); 4. Britain (Alexandra Skeggs, Karl Killander) 41 (143); 6. India (Ganemat Sekhon, Anantjeeet Singh Naruka) 142; 15. India-2 (Darshna Rathore, Gurjoat Khangura) 135.

REFLECTION

## We could have chased better, says Titans' Vijay Shankar

Gujarat Titans batter Vijay Shankar has blamed the team's batters after their loss to CSKin the IPL Qualifier 1. "I think we could have chased better. We could have got the game much closer," he said. "I think they (CSK) bowled pretty well in the middle overs. Middle overs are very important for any team that is chasing. We lost wickets."

FROM CLOSE QUARTERS

## Ruturaj's take on his partners du Plessis and Conway

Chennai Super Kings' Ruturaj Gaikwad opened up on his partners — former fellow-opener Faf du Plessis and the current one Devon Conway. "Faf was someone who was aggressive from ball one while Conway possesses excellent batsmanship in terms of locating gaps and rotating strikes."

EVOLUTION

## There is no role for anchor in T20 cricket now, says Rohit

India captain Rohit Sharma believes T20 cricket has changed and there is no role left for anchors in the format. "As I see it, there is no role for an anchor now. It is just how T20 cricket is played these days, unless you are 20/3 or 4, which is not going to happen every day," Rohit said.

OWNING A TAG

## I can be a very annoying captain, says Super Kings' Dhoni

Chennai Super Kings captain M.S. Dhoni, has said that he can be a very "annoying captain". "You see the wicket, you see the conditions and according to that, you keep adjusting the field. I can be a very annoying captain because I shift the fielder one or two feet here and there every time," Dhoni said in a post-match presentation.

# Madhwal's five for five blows away LSG

Mumbai Indians storms into Qualifier 2 with a thumping 81-run victory; Green and Suryakumar's 66-run stand lifts the team to 182

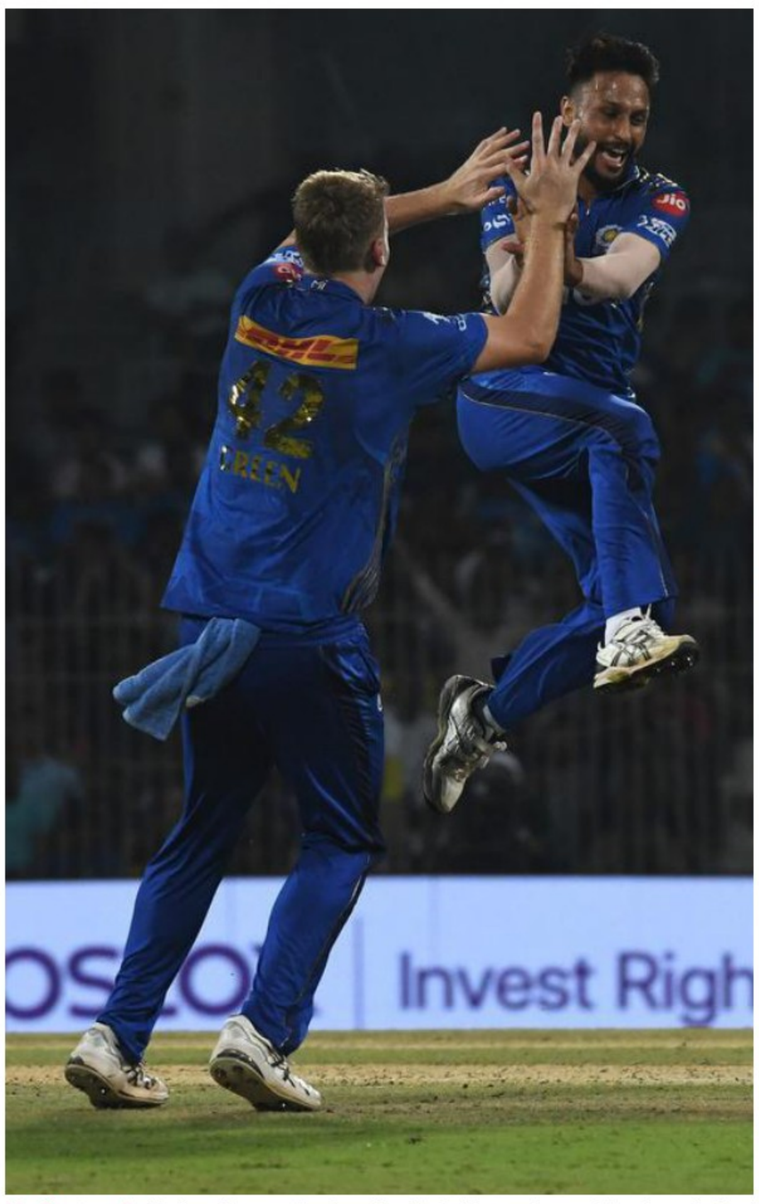
IPL-16

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Mumbai Indians might have just about crawled into the playoffs, but on Wednesday showed why it is the most successful side in the history of the IPL with a clinical performance as it thrashed Lucknow Super Giants by 81 runs in the Eliminator here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

Right from the moment Rohit Sharma won the toss and decided to bat, the five-time champion came hard at Super Giants and posted 182 for eight, thanks to quickfire knocks from Cameron Green (41, 23b, 6x4, 1x6) and Suryakumar Yadav (33, 20b, 2x4, 2x6).

However, the day belonged to Akash Madhwal, who blew away the Super Giants' batting line-up with a sensational spell of fast bowling to finish with figures of 3.3-0-5-5 to help his side bundle out the opposition for just 101 in 16.3 overs.



**Magic at work:** Madhwal's sensational spell ended with a yorker crashing through the defence of Mohsin after Green top scored for MI with a rapid 41. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

### First breakthrough

Chasing 183 for victory, LSG's reply never got going as its batters kept throwing their wickets away.

Madhwal gave Mumbai the first breakthrough when he removed opener Prerak Mankad before Chris Jordan dismissed the dangerous Kyle Mayers.

Only Marcus Stoinis (40, 27b) looked in some control and gave LSG hope. But the match swung decisively in MI's favour in the 10th over when Madhwal struck twice off consecutive deliveries.

The pacer first bowled Ayush Badoni before he had the in-from Nicholas Pooran caught behind with a peach of a delivery that swung into the left-hander and moved enough to find the edge as LSG slumped to 74 for five.

Shortly after that, Stoinis was run out when he collided with his partner Deepak Hooda as they tried to complete a double.

### Competitive total

Earlier, Green and Suryakumar's 66-run stand for the third wicket helped the team set the platform for a competitive total.

The Australian, who scored a ton in the previous match, continued from where he left off as he used his cut shots to good effect against pace and spin.

Suryakumar displayed some of his trademark scoops behind the wicket that sailed over the fence as Mumbai reached 100 in the 11th over.

Afghan pacer Naveen-ul-Haq briefly got LSG back in the game with some clever bowling.

He first had Suryakumar checking his shot to a leg-cutter and giving a simple catch to long-on before castling Green two balls later with an off-cutter to leave Mumbai at 105 for four.

But Tilak Varma (26, 22b, 2x6) steadied the innings before Nehal Wadhera's cameo (23, 12b, 2x6, 2x4) helped the Mumbai side finish with an above-par score which eventually proved plenty.

**SCOREBOARD**

**MUMBAI INDIANS**
Ishan Kishan c Pooran b Yash Thakur 15 *(12b, 3x4)*, Rohit Sharma c Badoni b Naveen 11 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Cameron Green b Naveen 41 *(23b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Gowtham b Naveen 33 *(20b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma c Hooda b Naveen 26 *(22b, 2x6)*, Tim David c Hooda b Yash Thakur 13 *(13b, 1x4)*, Nehal Wadhera **(Impact Player in place of Suryakumar)** c Bishnoi b Yash Thakur 23 *(12b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Chris Jordan c Hooda b Mohsin 4 *(7b)*, Hrithik Shokeen (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-8, lb-2, w-6): 16; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 182.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-30 (Rohit, 3.2 overs), 2-38 (Kishan, 4.2), 3-104 (Suryakumar, 10.4), 4-105 (Green, 10.6), 5-148 (David, 16.3), 6-159 (Tilak, 17.3), 7-168 (Jordan, 18.5), 8-182 (Wadhera, 19.6).

**SUPER GIANTS BOWLING**
Krunal 4-0-38-0, Gowtham 1-0-8-0, Naveen 4-0-38-4, Yash Thakur 4-0-34-3, Mohsin 3-0-24-1, Bishnoi 4-0-30-0.

**LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS**
Kyle Mayers **(Impact Player in place of Yash Thakur)** c Green b Jordan 18 *(13b, 3x4)*, Prerak Mankad c Shokeen b Madhwal 3 *(6b)*, Krunal Pandya c David b Chawla 8 *(11b, 1x4)*, Marcus Stoinis run out 40 *(27b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Ayush Badoni b Madhwal 1 *(7b)*, Nicholas Pooran c Kishan b Madhwal 0 *(1b)*, Deepak Hooda run out 15 *(13b, 1x6)*, K. Gowtham run out 2 *(3b)*, Ravi Bishnoi c Jordan b Madhwal 3 *(6b)*, Naveen-ul-Haq (not out) 1 *(5b)*, Mohsin Khan b Madhwal 0 *(7b)*; Extras (b-2, lb-5, w-3): 10; Total (in 16.3 overs): 101.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-12 (Prerak, 1.5), 2-23 (Mayers, 3.2), 3-69 (Krunal, 8.2), 4-74 (Badoni, 9.4), 5-74 (Pooran, 9.5), 6-89 (Stoinis, 11.5), 7-92 (Gowtham, 12.3), 8-100 (Bishnoi, 14.3), 9-100 (Hooda, 14.5).

**MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING**
Behrendorff 3-0-21-0, Madhwal 3.3-0-5-5, Jordan 2-1-7-1, Green 3-0-15-0, Shokeen 1-0-18-0, Chawla 4-0-28-1.

**Toss:** MI; **PoM:** Madhwal.
*Mumbai Indians won by 81 runs, will meet Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2 in Ahmedabad on May 26.*

**The connect:** Ruturaj and Conway have combined well. R. RAGU

## 'Had confidence in Conway like Faf in me'

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings opener Ruturaj Gaikwad credited the work put in by the team during the pre-season camp here for its stirring campaign.

"It (camp) was vital because a new surface was being laid in Chennai. Everyone was not sure how the wicket was going to be. You have to alter your game according to the pitch given that day. Sometimes, it's slower, and sometimes it's good [for batting]. So I think it was good to know how it would play," said Ruturaj.

The opener also said the preparation started immediately after the previous IPL when it finished ninth.

When asked if it was a deliberate decision to be more aggressive, Ruturaj said, "In 2021, Faf (du Plessis) had many 30s, 40s or 50s and he would get out in the 50s and I mostly managed to score 70s, 80s and 100. When someone is attacking from the other end, you have to ensure you stay till the 15th over.

"This year, I went into practice sessions with that mentality [playing shots early on and taking risks].

"When I thought I was going well, I knew that (Devon) Conway would stay till the 15th over or carry on till the end. I had the confidence in him just like Faf had in me in 2021," said Ruturaj.

## Sreeshankar retains his title in Greece; Jeswin takes silver

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
ATHENS

Commonwealth Games silver medallist long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won gold with the season's best performance of 8.18m at the International Jumping Meeting at Kallithea, near the Greece capital, on Wednesday. National record holder Jeswin Aldrin was second with a best jump of 7.85m.

The 24-year-old Sreeshankar defended the gold he had won last year with his sixth and last effort, his sixth career best performance, at the Wold Athletics Continental bronze level competition. He had won the gold last year with a 8.31m.

Sreeshankar's series were 7.94m, 8.17m, 8.11m, 8.04m, 8.01m and 8.18m. He, however, could not breach the 2023 World Athletics Championships qualifying standard of 8.25m.

This was Sreeshankar's second international gold of the season. He had triumphed at the MVA High Performance Meet in Chula Vista, USA with a wind-assisted jump of 8.29m on April 30, which was not considered for record purposes.

# The drama of Pathirana stepping out and stepping in

**The long debate:** Dhoni and the umpires discussed for a while before Pathirana was given the ball. R. RAGU

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

There was some confusion and controversy during Gujarat Titans' chase against Chennai Super Kings in Qualifier 1 on Tuesday.

Before the start of the 16th over, the on-field umpires had to intervene and stop Super Kings pacer Matheesha Pathirana from bowling his second over as he had been out of the field for nine minutes.

The rule states that if a fielder is off the field for less than eight minutes, he can return and bowl immediately.

However, since Pathirana was out for nine minutes, he had to field for the same duration of time before he could bowl and six minutes had elapsed since he came back.

Since Pathirana was off the field for nine minutes, he had to field for the same duration of time before he could bowl
Dhoni opted to wait and have a chat with the umpires even at the cost of delay in sticking to the over-rate

Titans batter Vijay Shankar, who was batting at that time, said, "I think he (Pathirana) was out (of the field) for a bit and had a little more time to make up. I think the game slowed down there."

Super Kings skipper M.S. Dhoni opted to wait and discuss the issue with the umpires for a few minutes even at the cost of delay in sticking to the over-rate.

It was a key moment in the contest as Dhoni would have had to employ a sixth bowler – most likely Moeen Ali – if the Sri Lankan was ruled out of bowling the 16th over. Pathirana would also not have completed his quota of four overs.

Fortunately, Super Kings didn't have to face these situations as Pathirana was given the green signal to bowl.

THE GAME CHANGER QUIZ

1. _____ became the first Indian woman weightlifter to win an Olympic medal when she won the bronze medal in the women's 69 kg category at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.
2. Only two Indians have scored triple hundreds in Test cricket. One is Sehwag. Who is the other one to score in 2016?
3. India's victory in the 1983 Cricket World Cup final is widely considered as one of the greatest upsets and a massive game changer in cricket history. Who top scored in the Finals?

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## INBRIEF

### Valladolid beat Barcelona to boost salvation hopes

Real Valladolid earned an important 3-1 victory over champion Barcelona to boost its La Liga survival hopes on Tuesday. The hosts were good value for their victory and climbed to 17th, moving provisionally three points clear of the relegation zone.

**The results:** Real Sociedad 1 (Kubo 45+4) bt Almeria 0; Celta Vigo 1 (Perez 42) drew with Girona 1 (Stuani 59-pen); Real Valldolid 3 (Christensen 2-og, Larin 22-pen, Plata 73) bt Barcelona 1 (Lewandowski 84).

### French Open qualifying: Ankita exits in second round

India's Ankita Raina went down 6-7(1), 1-6 to Japan's Moyuka Uchijima in an hour and 46 minutes in the second round of qualifying at the French Open in Paris on Wednesday.

### Tsitsipas splits with coach Philippoussis

Mark Philippoussis will no longer coach world No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas, the former Australian tennis star said, calling it the end of "a great ride". Philippoussis joined Tsitsipas's father Apostolos in the coaches box in the second half of last season.

**LIVE TELECAST**

**NBA**: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 6 a.m.

**BWF**: Malaysia Masters: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 7.30 a.m.

**Premier League**: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

# Shastri wants both Ashwin and Jadeja in Indian playing XI for WTC Final

The former India coach says the void left by Bumrah will hurt India's chances and it should counter it by picking another spinner

**CRICKET**

**Press Trust of India**
DUBAI

Former head coach Ravi Shastri feels that the Indian team should play to its strength and include both R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the playing eleven against Australia in the upcoming World Test Championship final at the Oval, next month.

Picking his XI for the marquee WTC Final, Shastri felt the void left by Jasprit Bumrah will hurt India's chances and it should counter it by picking another spinner to accommodate for the lack of quicks.

"India did very well in England last time round because you had Bumrah, you had Shami, you had Shardul Thakur, and you had Mohammed Siraj," Shastri said in ICC Review.

"So you had four fast bowlers. One being an all-rounder there, Shardul.

"That combination is a very good combination in England. Especially from India's point of view. It allows someone like Rohit Sharma to control the game far better. At times in England, you need to slow it down as well. And suddenly it can get overcast," he explained.

For Shastri, it is important to pick players as per conditions and current form. Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav are a couple of years older and might be a few yards slower compared to 2021.

"You have got horses for courses, you've got all bases covered. But then if the quality is not good in your fast-bowling attack. If you think the guys are older, they are not as quick as they used to be, and the form is a little doubtful, then you play that second spinner because Ashwin is quality, as is Jadeja." Fresh from playing in the IPL, fitness would be a big concern for the pacers as will be the fickle English weather, Shastri feels.

India have three spin options in their squad, with experienced Ashwin and No.1 ranked all-rounder Jadeja joined in the 15-player squad by Axar Patel, who can be his like-for-like replacement if need be.

**Spin stars:** Shastri feels that playing both Jadeja and Ashwin will be ideal as fitness would be a concern for the pacers. R.V. MOORTHY

## Dravid's pep talk to women's team ahead of Bangladesh tour

**Press Trust of India**
BENGALURU

Hours before leaving the Indian shores for the World Test Championship final, men's team head coach Rahul Dravid spent some quality time at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) and gave a pep talk to women cricketers ahead of their tour of Bangladesh.

The Indian women's team is currently undergoing a conditioning camp at the NCA ahead of its tour of Bangladesh, where it will play three ODIs and an equal number of T20Is.

"Head Coach Rahul Dravid had a very insightful interaction with the Senior Women cricketers at NCA, Bangalore.

"They got a new perspective on preparation, the need for constant improvement and the process of chasing excellence. We thank Mr Rahul Dravid for making time for this interaction with India's top women cricketers," the BCCI tweeted.

Dravid was accompanied by NCA head V.V.S. Laxman during the session which was attended by country's top cricketers.

## India mauls Chinese Taipei 18-0 in Junior Asia Cup hockey

**Press Trust of India**
SALALAH (OMAN)

Defending champion India started its men's junior Asia cup hockey campaign on a rousing note with a thumping 18-0 win over Chinese Taipei at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex, here, on Wednesday.

The Indians toyed with the Chinese Taipei defence, scoring goals at will.

Araijeet Singh Hundal (19th, 19th, 30th, 59th minutes) and Amandeep (38th, 39th, 41st) scored a hat-trick each, while Boby Singh Dhami (10th, 46th) and Aditya Arjun Lalage (37th, 37th) and skipper Uttam Singh (10th, 59th) found the back of the net twice.

**Lop-sided**

Sharda Nand Tiwari (11th), Angad Bir Singh (37th), Amir Ali (51st), Boby Poovanna Chandura (54th) and Yogember Rawat (60th) were the other goal-getters for India in the lop-sided Pool A contest.

India will next play Japan on Thursday before taking on arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday and Thailand on Sunday.

## Sahaja advances to second round

**TENNIS**

**Sports Bureau**

Sahaja Yamalapalli beat Elizaveta Shebekina 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis in Monastir, Tunisia, on Wednesday.

**The results: $15,000 ITF men, Addis Ababa: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** S.D. Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Digvijay Pratap Singh & Patrick Toman (USA) 6-2, 6-2; Yash Chaurasia & Jagmeet Ssingh bt Yabets Kebede (Eth) & Eytan Miessen (Bel) 7-6(4), 7-5; Bengamin Fernandez & Nicolas Valdes (Chi) bt Parthi Aggarwal & Tushar Madan 6-2, 6-3; Ishaque Eqbal & Karan Singh bt Chirag Duhan & Sina Moghimi (Iri) 6-4, 6-3; Dev Javia & Hong Kit Wong (Hkg) bt Samir Reguig (Alg) & Karim Ibrahim (Egy) 6-4, 1-6, [10-7].

**$25,000 ITF women, Monastir: First round:** Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Elizaveta Shebekina 6-3, 6-2.

**Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Wang Jiaqi (Chn) & Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Valeria Koussenkova (Esp) & Diana Mihail (Rou) 6-3, 6-2.

**$15,000 ITF women, Malaga: First round:** Riya Bhatia bt Aryana Bartlett (GBR) 6-2, 7-6(3).

**Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Julie Belgraver (Fra) & Victoria Gomez (Esp) bt Soumeya Anane (GBR) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-3, 4-6, [10-2]; Fanny Norin & Izabelle Persson (Swe) bt Alexandra Anttila (Fin) & Riya Bhatia 6-2, 3-6, [10-6].

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A BG-BGE

# Australia coach McDonald quashes doubts over Warner's future

Feels the southpaw, who is an important player in the scheme of things, is in a good head space and backs him to play significant roles in both the WTC final and the Ashes

CRICKET

**Agence France-Presse**
SYDNEY

Australia's cricket team head coach Andrew McDonald on Wednesday backed the under-pressure David Warner to play "a really significant part" in the Ashes starting next month in England.

The 36-year-old opening batsman has been a mainstay of the Australian team since making his debut against New Zealand in 2011.

But the left-hander approaches the Ashes and World Test Championship final against India at The Oval with one century in his past 32 innings and a mediocre record in England.

**Senior pro:** McDonald feels Warner is a pivotal player and backs him to find form in England. FILE PHOTO

### Optimistic

"We're optimistic with what Warner's got left," McDonald told the SEN radio on Wednesday, addressing doubts about Warner's immediate future on the side.

"We've picked him in the squad and we feel that he's going to play a really significant part in the Ashes and the World Test Championship final, and that's why he's on the plane.

"We think he's got some good games left in him," he added.

> He's clearly in our plans and he's ready to go, and we're in constant contact with him

While Warner made Australia's 17-man squad for the first two Ashes Tests and the preceding WTC final, selectors have kept their options open beyond that.

McDonald said that Warner was in "a good head space".

"He's an important part of that squad," McDonald said.

"If he wasn't, then we would have had a clear checkpoint after the first Test match or the World Test Championship going into the Ashes, but that's not the case.

### In contact

"Warner is clearly in our plans and he's ready to go, and we're in constant in contact with him," he added.

Former vice-captain Warner missed much of this year's blockbuster tour of India with a fractured elbow, which came on the back of an extended lean spell with the bat.

Warner has previously hinted at retirement from Test cricket this year to focus on the game's shorter formats.

The WTC final starts on June 7 and the first Ashes Test is from June 16 at Edgbaston.

# Sania to join Sony as a commentator

TENNIS

**V.V. Subrahmanyam**
HYDERABAD

The role of a broadcaster might give an opportunity for her fans to see her in a different light after being used to seeing her as a player for many years, six-time Grand Slam winner Sania Mirza said in an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu* via a video-conference on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Sania, who will be tennis ambassador for Sony Sports Network and commentate on the forthcoming French Open, said that it would be a fresh role but one very close to her heart as it will help her stay connected with the game. "Playing the sport was a big challenge. Now being a broadcaster has its own excitement and buzz. I hope my stint here will help in the cause of promoting young talent and emergence of another big name in Indian women's tennis too," said the former World No. 1 in women's doubles.

**New beginning:** Sania and Rajesh Kaul of Sony Pictures Networks India. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

"In this part of the world, there are many who watch the sport, especially the Grand Slams and I hope the increased viewership will encourage more people to play the sport."

Sania said the preparations for her new role have been good and that she would be in the company of those who have played the sport. "I am sure I can give insight, share my knowledge, experiences," she said.

For someone known for her fearless and frank opinion, Sania hoped she could continue like that on air.

## BENGALURU ROUND UP

### Amogh helps Jawans defeat Century Cricketers

S. Amogh's match-haul of 12 wickets (8/37 & 4/24) helped Jawans CC defeat Century Cricketers by 178 runs in the KSCA (Group I) second division league.

**The scores:**

Jawans 399 in 65 overs (S.U. Karthik 109, Harshil 71, C.M. Gautam 29, Milind Mali 29, Yaseer Nihal 43, Raajoo Bhatkal 46 n.o., Mohammed Sadiq 6/109) bt Century Cricketers 149 in 44 overs (B. Dheemanth 34, Ashish Dhar 43, Ayudh Sharma 31, S. Amogh 8/37) & 72 in 21.3 overs (L. Manvanth Kumar 31, S. Amogh 4/24, Yaseer Nihal 4/22).

Jawahar SC (2) 165 in 52.4 overs (K. Rakshith 44, R.V. Nikhil Vedanth 52, Karthik Ramanna 3/8, S.A. Sachin 4/36) & 104 in 33.3 overs (S.A. Sachin 4/42, Pranesh Desai 5/39) bt Modern 77 in 21.4 overs (Shimon Luiz 4/25, N.S. Sachin 6/27) & 173 in 54.5 overs (R. Suhas 28, Karthik Ramanna 37, Aaryan Santosh 41, Shimon Luiz 5/46, N.S. Sachin 3/64).

Chintamani SA 115 in 50 overs (Aditya K. Udupa 35 n.o., V.N. Sanjay 5/36) & 102 in 37.4 overs (Mir Kaunain Abbas 42, Ashish Nayak 27, A. Pavan Kumar 4/31) lost to The Bangalore Cricketers 216 in 72 overs (M.S. Swaroop 38, U. Nakul 52, K.B. Shreyas 44, Manjunath 26, A. Pavan Kumar 27, Nathan D'Mello 5/82) & 4/0 in 0.5 overs.

Jawahar SC (1) 311/7 in 79 overs (Raghuveer 39, Amod S. Kaluve 47, S. Chaitanya 33, Jayesh Babu 110, V. Prithvi 40, B.V. Shashank 29 n.o., Kazi Abrar 4/56) drew with Wilson Garden 112 in 39.3 overs (Eesa Hakeem Puthige 44, S. Nishanth 3/31, K.M. Pravesh 3/20) & 186/6 in 57 overs (Raghuveer Rajpurohit 35, Eesa Hakeem Puthige 33, S. Aditya 34, Pavan 27 n.o., Kazi Abrar 25 n.o., Amey U Shanbhag 3/60).

Jupiter CA 273 in 63.5 overs (Harshith Poojary 49, S. Nithish Gowda 126, Rahul Vernekar 52 n.o., Nithin Naidu 5/89) drew with Herons 301 in 80.4 overs (Suhasa Adiga 27, A. Arjun Hoysala 55, S.P. Arjun 63, Nithin Naidu 38, Aditya Mani 37, S. Nithish Gowda 3/75, S. Chiranth 3/54, Sheetal Kumar 3/67).

Vijaya 374/9 decl. in 77 overs (Thippa Reddy 51, Swapnil Yelave 62, Nischal Das 36, N. Yash 102 n.o. Daman Deep Singh 5/105) drew with Visweswarapuram (1) 349 in 83.1 overs (Virender Singh 29, Ansh Aima 38, M. Raja 26, K. Arun 115, Sinan Abdul Khader 44, Nihal Ranjan Gowda 34, N. Samarth 5/87, Mukesh Pandey 3/73).

### Aron scores a hat-trick

Aron scored a hat-trick as Muslim Heroes thrashed Basavanagudi FC 7-0 in the BDFA C-division league here on Wednesday.

**The results:**

Muslim Heroes FC 7 (Karthik 5, Parishudh 21, Manoj 23, Murtaza 38, Aron 43, 44, 54) bt Basavanagudi FC 0; Indiranagar FC 2 (Abraham 13, 42 drew with 515 ABWS FC 2 (Sanjay 6, Rohit Routh 25).

Minerva FC 2 (Ajeesh Krishna 30, Mani Bharath 40) bt Devanahalli FC 1 (R. Rohit 30+1); Hampinagar FC 8 (Rupsingh Vade 18, 20, 41, 53, 57, Kishore Prakash 22, Jalin 30, R. Anil Kumar 43) bt Maharaja Socials FC 1 (Deepak 57).

### Hockey trials

Hockey Karnataka will conduct trials on May 27 at the Hockey Stadium to select the State junior women's team for the 13th Junior National championship scheduled to be held at Rourkela from June to July 7. Those born on or after January 1, 2004 are eligible.

### Max Mueller defeats Panthers

Arya J. Gowda's all-round effort (26 & 3/14) helped Max Mueller defeat Panthers CA by 78 runs in the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament.

**The scores:** Carmel 100 in 26.3 overs (M. Pranav 48, Rahul 3/23) lost to CCE 101/7 in 18.3 overs (Shreehaan Arinjai 38, Preet 3/21).

Max Muller 168/5 in 30 overs (Jayan Samyog 51, Ishaan Nayak 42, Arya J. Gowda 26, S. Srivishnu 3/19) bt Panthers CA 90/7 in 30 overs (Aryansh Singh 25, Arya J. Gowda 3/14).